

MEMOIRS OF A CADET.

BY A BENGALEE.

'Then did Sir Knight abandon dwelling,
And out he rode a colonelling.'

BUTLER?

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LIEUT-COL WILLIAM WHITE MOORE,

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THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED BY

HIS GRATEFUL AND ATTACHED FRIEND

THE AUTHOR.



MEMOIRS OF A CADET.

CHAPTER I.

In the year 18—, I received my appointment² as a Cadet of Infantry on the Bengal establish-
ment. I was but sixteen years of age, and the
thoughts of becoming my own master, and
visiting foreign count ies, at that time completely
outweighed the pangs of separation from home
and friends

I will not, like man³ the s⁴ ^{ev₅}
found the reader's ima⁶ aid⁷, w⁸
of the omens, portents, and

the earth at the period of my birth, nor recount my early sayings and school adventures, much more wonderful than those of my companions—but plunge at once *in medias res*, starting forth to the light a full-blown cadet, fitted out in Leadenhall Street with five times more traps than ever I found use for—and, “all the perils of the ocean past,” arriving at the Sandheads, the entrance to the river Hooghly.

Never, perhaps, did a more perfect specimen of a *griffin* or freshman enter India. Fortunately, however, I had occasionally, during the voyage, deigned to lend an ear to friendly advice from an old campaigner, who, compassionating my extreme youth and simplicity, interested himself on my account, and this I afterwards found to stand me in good stead.

At the Sandheads we received on board the pilot to conduct us thenceforward to entered the Hooghly with the beginning of August, The low island of Saugor

loomed dimly on the starboard bow. We ran along merrily with wind and tide till our arrival at Kedgercc, off which place we anchored.

The shore here would be remarkably uninteresting under any other circumstances than its forming the advanced post of the land of promise after a long voyage. As it was, we hailed it with delight. The lighthouse might have been an edifice raised by some good genius, (no doubt it was,) and the little fruit-boat that came alongside, with its black and almost naked steersman and paddler, his ministering messenger.

Fruit, eggs, and railk, we bought, and O! the luxury after so long confinement to ship-fare! This was one of the few golden hours of existence. The fruit was exquisite—the milk unfortunately was much smoked—and as to the eggs, they were mostly rotten. One of my fellow-cadets, who had been an ~~ext~~ ^{voracious} purchaser, remonstrated with the ~~sp~~^{man}, ^{for} he had paid, ^{wn} cocoa-nuts, and two

together, with his eggs, worth collectively about sixpence; but the sole satisfaction he obtained was, I believe, a not unusual answer to new-comers. "Very good egg, master, no get—rainy season, hen no lay good egg—same as get in Calcutta, master—dry weather come, hen lay good egg—then master get."

I shall not detain my readers long on this portion of the river; but I cannot wholly pass unnoticed the striking effect produced on a young mind by the beautiful scenery, especially after having had nothing but the ocean, in its various moods, to gaze upon for months. The rich and deep hues of the foliage on the banks of the river, during the rainy season, transcend the powers of my pen to describe. The shores are too thickly wooded in many places to admit of human habitations; yet the river teems with life. Ships of all sizes and nations are here to

able small boats belonging
like swarms of insects.
, however, there are

sufficient signs of propinquity to a large city, in the form of European dwelling-houses, and native villages ; and as each successive reach of the river gradually develops itself, these symbols increase in number and closeness, till Fort William appears in that attitude of tranquil majesty which displays, in a form not to be misunderstood, the power terribly to destroy, if aroused to wrath.

On the third evening, after receiving the pilot, we came to anchor off Chandpaul Ghaut, our vessel being an extra Indiaman of only five hundred tons burden, and consequently able to make its way in safety up to Calcutta.

Early the following morning we prepared to go ashore, i. e. the passengers who still remained on board ; for some had previously quitted in native boats, such as boliahhs, dingies. ^{as} whatever species of craft presented ably ^{and} full

Great was the clamor ^{at}
that arose amongst them
our patronage; to wit, when

jostled each other out of the way in the most unceremonious manner. At last, as good luck and patience would have it, Milden (a brother cadet) and myself succeeded in effecting a footing on board a dingy, or small boat, and made way for the shore. But here another occurrence, the very counterpart of the last, impeded our progress. Numerous palkees for hire are constantly stationed at the ghaut, or landing-place; and the bearers of many of these ran so deeply into the water, as absolutely to dip the lower part of their conveyances into the stream. The competition was great, and therefore

"Their van the fleetest rushed."

to anticipate the *fare*. In this strife for victory I was ^{almost} by force of arms, deposited in the ^{depths} of human life. Ships' palkees two or three yards from ^{the} ^{water} speedily conveyed, and ^{at} arrived, after passing

On the summit of the ghaut we perceived several groups of young gentlemen, both in civil and military guise. They were conversing, and anxiously watching, as it seemed to me, the movements on board our lately-arrived vessel. The mystery was soon explained, for a sircar, or native agent, had already attached himself to me, and was alongs de, entreating my patronage ; and he informed me, "when Missy Beebec (young ladies) come new from Europe, then always plenty young gentlemen come to ghaut to see." Under the guidance of this volunteer attendant we were conveyed to a very comfortable hotel, where we breakfasted, and for the present deposited the little baggage we had brought ashore.

We were highly pleased with our morning meal, and never could circumstances have wrought together more favourably for full enjoyment of it. An ex^c lat^v as a lemma; and then, wic^a yourself a snow-whit wn

were drawn up, in beautiful array, ham, eggs (fresh this time), a superb kind of fish from the salt-water lakes, called bektee or cockup, fried, boiled rice, muffins, tea, coffee, &c. Plantains, radishes, small prints of butter in a handsome cut-glass vessel of cold water, and a bouquet of beautiful flowers in the centre, gave a most cool and refreshing appearance to the *disjune*, as Lady Margaret Bellenden would have called it. A khidmutgar, or native waiter, stood behind each of our chairs, with chourcee* in hand, to keep in awe the flies, and a punkah waved pleasantly over our heads,—and all this lordly service for two cadets!

What an antithesis! a breakfast in Calcutta after a four months' voyage, and ship-fare! I do not here by any means wish to insinuate anything to the disparagement of our treatment on board; ——; *tout au contraire*, nothing but a ship is only a

sp
ail, or otherwise.

ship, when all has been said in its favour, that the head and tongue of man can devise and give utterance to.

Our meal being concluded, we prepared ourselves for a visit to the town-major, in order to report our arrival. This is a necessary step, and the earlier it is taken the better, it being the epoch from which the period of service is accounted, and pay granted. It is impossible for me to express the mortification I felt on seeing Milden equip himself in a scarlet Swiss jacket, with sword and sash *conform*. He had, in fact, been provided in Leadenhall Street with a cadet's uniform jacket, which he had kept altogether *perdu* during the voyage, and now started forth in dazzling blaze before my humiliated sight.

The sircar, who still remained in *the presence*, saw the merits of the case with a quickness of perception for which the *Indians* are so remarkable, and with a soothing promise, that we

would produce a tailor who should "do for master in two days." The offer I joyfully accepted, and thus the sly sircar secured for himself my *custom*, by administering to my vanity.

Misfortunes never come alone. Milden's palkee preceded mine, and I had to undergo the ordeal—yes, believe it who will, I had to undergo the ordeal of seeing him saluted by every passing soldier, arms carried by every sentry, and not one compliment did I get.

"No man cried, God save him!"

I say again, I saw all this—and lived!

After due registration in the office of the town-major, we proceeded next to the office of the barrack-master, who furnished us each with a room in the south barracks. These necessary preliminaries being settled, we trotted off to pay our respects to the governor-general. This object was easily effected by simply presenting our camp in waiting at the gate, where the name and

address in the visiting-book, *et voilà tout!* This little matter of etiquette is afterwards usually acknowledged by a card of invitation to dinner, or to the next ball and supper at the Government-house.

A new arrival soon becomes known amongst the various classes of native servants who are unemployed, and on the look-out for a situation: accordingly, on returning to my quarters, I was besieged by a host of candidates. I here found the assistance of my friend the sircar very beneficial: he was extremely officious, but was, I am convinced, sincere in his endeavours to serve me well, for he effectually protected me against all impositions except his own; and these were the more tolerable, as they appeared in the less offensive, because undissembled, shape of large profits. In after-times I have generally found that the native servants in India, in whom confidence is placed, will be ~~trust~~^{trust} ~~imagine~~^{imagine} distrust, they hol~~on~~^{on} tified in realising suspicion

Knowing from my veteran friend on ship-board, already alluded to, that I must necessarily employ a certain number of servants, and having received also from him a list of those indispensably requisite, I immediately applied myself to the task of engaging them.

I had been especially warned against those who speak broken English. These are, with few exceptions, all rogues in grain, who hang about the presidency, and will remain with you until you quit Calcutta for the upper provinces, when they will attend you for a few days, and then suddenly depart, "but not alone," as Lord Byron says. Certain articles, more weighty in value than in carriage, invariably accompany these movements. Such little pleasantries as I have just narrated, are considered amongst themselves "exceedingly *good things*" if successful, which they oftentimes are, as the expense and money, occasioned by returning to prosecute the parties, is a guarantee for their safety in

I paid no especial attention to the certificates of character which were presented to me in abundance. Many of these are transferred from one to another, either being sold by some servant who is provided with a place, or lent out on hire, till it has served its purpose, when it is restored to the owner. A descriptive roll of the person should invariably be incorporated with, or appended to, a certificate of character. The mere name is no protection against fraud—a native can change that as easily as I can my coat.

One certificate was presented to me of rather an unusual tenor, for the Bengalees are cunning enough generally, on receiving this description of document, to proceed with it to some native acquaintance who can read English, in order to ascertain the *quantum* of their own merits as therein exhibited. Nevertheless, the one in question ran thus:—

“I do hereby certify that
Khoda Rux, has served n
three months, and is di

intoxication and insolence, and is, moreover, a very dirty fellow."

This precious testimonial, signed by a chaplain of the establishment, I read aloud amidst roars of laughter from the sircar and others who could understand it; but Khoila Bux preserved the most "undisturbed gravity, and when silence was restored, in respectful attitude he addressed me, "Kya hookm sahib?" interpreted thus by my sircar: What order will master give? This was conveyed to him; viz. to go about his business, which he did, and no doubt soon ascertained the true value of his certificate.

The result of this morning's labour was to me, a train, composed of eight vassals, one only of whom could speak English. This was necessary, as I required an interpreter; but I retained him long after I could freely converse in Hindostanee, as I found him intelligent and useful.

His name was Mahumed, a durzee, or
signified by their fellow-serv-
rr" appellative of Khuleefu;

Anglicè, Caliph. All classes of servants have, in fact, some high-flown title which they accord to each other.

The officers of the Honourable Company's service have, generally speaking, advantage over those of His Majesty's,* with respect to servants: the former are compelled to learn the native language, at least colloquially, before they can be placed in any trust whatsoever. This is imperative, as they are almost wholly attached to Sepoy regiments. But the officers of his majesty's immediate service have neither the compulsion nor inducement to study the "black language," as they call it, and must therefore content themselves with an inferior class of servants, qualified indeed to understand and repeat what may be said ^{and wü} ~~and~~ ^{sir} ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{which has, ere now, r} ~~the~~ ^{na} ~~the~~ ^{ger.} ["] ~~the~~ ^a

* This was written during the reign of William IV., and it appears not to have been finally sketched.

quences. I by no means wish this remark to be considered as generally applicable, for I have met with many king's officers who have made themselves good linguists by study; still it applies much more closely than it ought to do: for, independent of all other considerations, it is a duty incumbent on all military officers to become acquainted with the language of the country wherein they serve, and more especially if likely to be there located for many years. Suppose, for instance, a case of detached duty, wherein a native spy or 'villager' may come to the commander with information of the last importance: how desirable, how necessary to be able to understand him without the interposition of a medium, who has in the first place, no right to be ~~and~~^{as I} required on the second, may be possessed him long after I could first and his master toge-dostanee, as I found him^{ation}. How forlorn a palkee ^{ma} fr Mahunie be!



: signified by longer on the read-
appellatio deeply engaged

in the subject of native servants in India, to observe, that when servants are required, in order to obtain good ones, it is fully as necessary (after a brief residence) for the employer to possess an approved character as the servant; nay, more so, for an excellent servant is often found, who has no certificate of character (a thing seldom read and less often attended to); but I affirm, fearless of contradiction from any one at all conversant in these matters, that it is all but a moral impossibility for a master to obtain the ministry of any but off-scourings and riff-raff, who has lost *his own character* amongst the native servants.

A servant who will remain in employment after receiving a blow, is little to be trusted. Some of the higher caste indeed w^w } tire it, and I am moreover con^{sir} some masters who, th^e oⁿ ing the generality ger. "na refrain from indulging t^u them, checked, if not awed,

riage which inhibits personal aggression. At some stations a court is established, empowered to inflict a fine on any person who strikes a servant, on complaint being duly made and proved.

After completing my establishment of domestics, I ordered the palkee, for the purpose of calling at the house of agency, on which I had a letter of credit.

rarely become disengumbered of it afterwards. For some years they *cannot* pay, and then they *will* not. The debt hangs as lead on the spirits, and the inducement to lay by money is not great, when, instead of accumulating for the use of the economist, it only goes to reduce by driplets a galling burthen, already more than double its original amount by interest alone. The remote period of final enfranchisement from this thrall-dom offers so disheartening a prospect, that present comforts and enjoyments are not often foregone, in order to attain so distant an object.

O ye parents and guardians, believe me when I tell you, that one letter, of even moderate credit, is worth a thousand of the very best advice.

The sircar pricked up ^{and t_le } sir} his ^{head} that I possessed the m^{ost} ^{sir} great a house, and his ^{on} accordingly more eager. "I order," everything that I ^l housekeeping should be furni^a

camp bedstead, camp table, one chair, tea equipage, tea, coffee, &c. &c. Agreed to.

After visiting my agents, I met Milden at the inn for dinner, according to appointment. We then saw our baggage landed from the ship, and proceeded with it to our quarters about sunset. To my great astonishment, I found the floor of my room nearly covered with a variety of articles which the sircar had procured for my approval, and my new servants busy, selecting and choosing therefrom, each in his own department. My approval of all their tastes seemed to be presumed as a matter of course. I prudently allowed them to please themselves, on the assurance of the sircar, that they knew much better what was proper for master, than master did always require. But to it amounted to the same ed him long after I could more hinted than expected him, as I found his palkee by f. ^{the} m^o uarged my palkee, so soon as palkee ⁱⁿ order, I tied on a sash, the sp^o tary furniture then belonging

to me, over my plain English dress, and sallied forth to put in execution a little plan I had devised. My errand was purely experimental, and the motive was to appropriate to myself as many salutes as might be offered to the badge I wore. With doors wide open and watchful as a lynx on both sides, I traversed the fort, nor was I unrewarded ; for although the thoughtless private soldiers mostly allowed me to pass without capping, there were still some goodnatured serjeants and corporals who much obliged me by saluting, being well enough *up to the thing*, no doubt. As to the Sepoys, they left me nothing to wish for. In those days they were too civil by half, and would acknowledge anything with a sash on in Fort William..

Having twice gone round the ^{“*top*”} ^{sir} *tip*, reaped and gleaned my little ^{“*crop*”} *re* to barracks in great spirits, and grog with Milden. The evenin at nine o'clock, again warmed ^{“*up*”} future military renown. At ten a.

highly exalted, in my own estimation by the occurrences of this busy and eventful day. The lamp and the servants were now put out for the night. Nothing stirred except sentries and mosquitos ; and thus was I left alone to sleep with my glory.

I was aroused at six o'clock the next morning by a slight pressure of the foot, accompanied by a respectful "sahib" from my sirdar, or head attendant. He held in his hand my cotton socks, which I perceived he had a design to put me on whilst recumbent. This I gladly permitted, and then rose and equipped myself for the morning.

The morning had risen heavily, and the rain descended in torrents. I looked through the venetians, but nothing could I see save a dismal ~~as I require~~ Bure, through which no eye could him long after I cove~~w~~ fact. For a few days pre-stancee, as I found had only been occasional, though ~~est, by f~~ ~~the~~ ~~in~~ inued overclouded, and the wea-palkee in cool breezes. Here was, how-
: eless-looking day indeed, and

no "Stout Gentleman" at hand on whose movements I might speculate *pour passer le temps*. I examined my room—I forgot how many feet square I made it out to be; it was lofty, with two high venetian windows to the front, and opposite the door. In one corner was a space apportioned off for the convenience of bathing, furnished with earthen vessels of water, called kedgerce pots. A small dike, about five or six inches in height, separated this comfortable accommodation from the main body of the room, to prevent inundation. Over the door a semicircular arch opened into the entrance passage, for the better circulation of air. When I had sufficiently studied these particular ^{things}, I went to summon Milden to breakfast. No fish was procurable, in consequence ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{sir} ~~of~~ ^{shou} ~~tin~~

This meal was duly disposed ^{of} ~~the~~
rain seemed rather to have inc
minished, we paraded up and do
each with cheroot in mouth, in
that avenue against all hostile a
raw chill atmosphere.

The passage which has been so often alluded to may be about nine feet wide, or perhaps more, and runs through the whole length of this range of barracks : it separates the front from the rear line of officers' rooms. The flat roof of the barracks is an excellent morning and evening promenade for such occupants as choose to avail themselves of it.

During our ambulation to and fro, we amused ourselves by watching the operations of the various servants stationed outside the doors of their respective masters. Some were busy with the breakfast apparatus, others were furbishing swords, cleaning regimental buttons, counting silver spoons &c.; but by far the greater part were squat down in happy converse, or solemn divar. And from these latter groups the am long after I eq. khana and pysa (food and anee. as I found usually predominated above all the fare. in the
by force of arm took ourselves to books till tiffin palkee two and this day arranged to commence
spc;

the system of dining in the evening à la mode des Indes. The monotonous plashing of the rain still continued dismally appalling. What was to be done, and how was the whole blessed length of afternoon to be got through? A ray of light broke in upon me. It was a thought worthy of Southey. "I will," said I, "make a catalogue of all my earthly possessions." It was a brilliant conception, and the execution of it bore me triumphantly through till the dinner was ready. I thus dealt with the rain as they are said to do in Spain, viz. I let it rain on.

I shall skip over ^{tion;} four or five following days which preceded the ^{g-} But I ^{at} the Government-house, merely ^{remarke} ^{or} ^{itted} the ac-
dered a full uniform dress for tha
which I had received a promise shou
to me in sufficient time. My sir
his engageme^{nt} to furnish me
equipments, which enabled me
appear *en militaire*.

The day of the ball at len_t

journeyed on as days are wont to do. Four o'clock p.m. was just making its bow, and my patience failing, when an anxiously-expected arrival was announced, viz. a full-dress uniform and appointments from Simpson and Wallace s. The durzee was sitting at work beside me. I desired him to call the sidar, who was soon found. Proceedings were immediately instituted. It took me a full hour to button my coat and make it sit tastefully, the sidar standing before me holding a looking-glass the while. But the tying on of the sash was the most puzzling and intricate performance of all. Even this was at last achieved ^{status}, the sword gilded on. Toweling ^{cleaning}, triumph! especially when the silver spoon ^{marked}, with apparent exultation, were squa ^{clinging to} so great a man, "Now lemme ^{divide} it." An long after I ^{were} n the spot for that very obser- unee. as I found ^{the} fare. ^{much} elated at the compliment of by force of arms ^a captain, previously paid by my palkee two ^{two}

durzee, that I could not refrain from mentioning it in the morning to my acquaintance, Captain Cambridge, the A.D.C. (I forgot to state in its proper place that I had brought from England a letter of introduction to that gentleman, and waited upon him with it the third day after my arrival.) He laughed, and said, I need not doubt of speedy promotion from the natives, if I were inclined to pay so handsomely for it. He even went so far as to say, he should not at all wonder to hear that I was a general before the week were out. There was much to displease me in this observation; it was said sneeringly: I treasured it nevertheless. But I anticipate.

Immediately after I had committed the act of egregious folly in giving is seen brought entered. He was nations of the ment. "Ha, Mil I believe, the à la bonne heure interta thing, eh? Rat th the . "Yes," replied F il "

capitally ; I congratulate you on your martial appearance."

"So, you approve, do you?" So do I too; but I must disrobe notwithstanding. Too long from five o'clock till nine to remain in harness.—I think you had better go. The marquis will think it odd if you are not there. Here, bearer, untie my sash," &c.

On approaching the Government-house that night, my feelings were indefinable. The one most developed was, I think, a wish that the sensation I was about to create on my entrance had already subsided, and myself quietly enjoying the diversions of the evening. As the Marquis of Hastings did not meet me at the door, I entered, with a ball-room; when, to my surprise, longing to so feelings of modesty leaping up. In long after I respectable—I composed. In stancer, as I found n the spot for of suns, moons, the fare. In much elated at the other, can be witnessed by force of arms captain, previously capital of the East. palkee two spe

Instead of appearing a brilliant meteor, "the observed of all observers," as my durzé had told me I should, I suddenly found myself a star of no magnitude at all, invisible even to the naked eye—for no one saw me. It was indeed wonderful. My infantry subaltern's dress was annihilated in presence of the showy, and at the same time very handsome, uniforms of the Horse Artillery, Engineers, Light Dragoons, General Staff, &c. that were so thickly mingled in the throng. It was all the better: I could *look*, at all events, and I *did look*.

London, on these occasions, may not compare with Calcutta in splendour. The court ^{were} ~~were~~ to bed, display that diversity of magnificence ^{and} splendour which, in the East, is ^{never} seen brought from all the civilized nations of the present fête, was, I believe, the our Most Noble entertainment. The campaign with the celebration of the Festa di San Giorgio. All the officers, civil

invited, and for the most part attended. Shortly after making my *début*, I went out to witness the arrival of a rajah—I believe the Rajah of Mysore. He came in a palkee of the richest materials, preceded by about a hundred torch-bearers, and followed by as many more. Each torch had numerous lights branching out like trees. The rajah himself was literally covered from head to foot with jewels—his turban, body-dress, and sandals, being one dazzling blaze of diamonds, &c. He appeared to be no more than fifteen years of age, and he was accompanied by one of the elders of his family. The king the diverce sat on the right of the marquis. quis of IIas' pay much attention to the dancing ; were squis by far more grateful food for curiosity lemp, div, vance of the customs and manners of an long after I'ous assemblage.

tanee. as, I found ~ I sat opposite to two the fare. In such elated by force of arm, captain, pr palkee tw ~ was pretty. Their

head-dresses were a crown of leaf-gold, with long pendants behind, and the front was a mass of jewellery, as was also their whole foreview as they sat at table. Each carried, I was told, to the value of a lakh of rupees (10,000*l.*) on her person. Our own countrywomen were also arrayed in very rich attire ; but their principal charms lay not in their apparel. The whole entertainment was magnificent and well befitting the high station of the noble host, viz., that of majesty in all but the name. The party broke up reasonably early for so great an occasion, and I retired to my quiet and, I think I may, comparatively say, humble apartment, and to bed, where I lay awake for some hours, ruminating on the, to me, novel and exciting evening.

On the following morning, while
seriously studying Tulloh,
the current day, a boy
knocked at my door, "Salam, Major"
of the buniya, wit

"What does he say, durzee?" exclaimed I.

"He say, 'Good morning, Major Sahib.'"

The aid-de-camp's sneering remark came to my mind. "Kick the rascal out," said I; "he wants to cajole me out of a rupee—kick him out!"

The durzee rose to obey.

"*Duwaee Sahib*," ejaculated the alarmed singer, with hands joined, "*ghoolam ka koosoor. Ap ka mooh genreil ha, is waste*"—

"What does he say, durzee?" again I exclaimed, interrupting.

"He say, he beg pardon: master's countenance like general's, therefore he make mistake. He wish to make compliment, *our kooch nuheen — squat more.*"

My compliment, as he called it, was very long after I found the best of it, and I was in the anee. as I found the worst construction upon it. he fare. In much elated at wrath to perform the by force of arm (captain, p' not with my foot). The palkee two ter, for the display, but

sped from the room and along the passage with great alacrity, uttering these memorable words, "*Ahe! ahe! Sahib bushoot nuya!*" I ignored his meaning; but a gentleman, who was standing by his own room-door opposite, kindly enough informed me, that the man had said I was a great green-horn. He evidently enjoyed the joke. I thanked him for his pleasing politeness, and shrunk back like a turtle into my sanctuary.

Shortly afterwards the sircar came to pay his quotidian respects.

"*Salam, Sahib.*"

"*Salam, Baboo. Any news to-day?*"

"O yes; news very bad to whom we is master heard the *nong dee?*" of Br.

"Heard what, Baboo? The *nong' dee* do you mean by that?"

"Ha, ha; master make joke want. How can I teach mast guage? I heard very gr to-day, there is *nong* will soon go to Europe."

The baboo must surely mean an "*on dit*," thought I; but I allowed him to proceed.

"Master, I have much sympathy because the Lord Sahib will go to Europe. He is very good gentleman, and has commensuration for all poor fellow of my country."

"He will indeed be a loss to all in this country, English and native, Baboo, when he goes; but I hope it will not be immediately."

"Very true, master, all people imprecate his departure; but other news I have got. One very great ship is arrived at Saugor from England."

"Ha! general's name?"

"Ah to, I cannot tell, but plenty missy bee-h^{ee}s^{ee} board. Sir, you will go to Chandpal^{ee} understand the young ladies are very emp^{ee}ly^{ee} in long after Mayworth going to see, if you please. stanee, as I found^{ee} thy, very innocent, simple thing, the fare. In much elated^{ee} no^{ee} year, ha! they know t^{ee} by force of arm^{ee} captain, p^{ee} Yes, yes, English ladies palkee tw^{ee}

are very clever ladies, certainly ; very soon make better bargain with sircar than master."

I remained about a month at the Presidency ; at the end of which period Milden and I made preparations for our departure towards Berham-pore, whither we were directed to repair and do duty until finally appointed to regiments. The sircar procured for us a comfortable budgerow of sixteen oars, and early in September we embarked. In the mean time our days passed remarkably pleasantly in Calcutta. All was new and interesting. Moreover, we had occasionally breakfasted and dined with some of the gentlemen of the civil service, to whom we had been casually introduced. The nobility of British India is too well known. In some points I can give a good example from the daughters. Shakspeare

" There 's such divinity

" " "

But what do *I* say ? Wh

land there is such a sanctity doth hedge an uncut
pic or tart, that few are daring enough to vio-
late it. Now in India, on the contrary, the
dissecting knife may on all occasions be lawfully
applied.

CHAPTER II.

THE budgerow, which had been provided by my factotum, the sircar, was manned by a Mohammedan crew of seventeen boatmen, including the manjhee, or steersman. These river nautical are denominated dandees, or rowers, and are very amphibious persons, ^{as they will be} shown hereafter.

A budgerow is a river-boat, fed in at kindly
to the convenience of Euron as, as
neyings on the Ganges, ch. 2. of "the v a i n g
This vessel is decked ohe, as u u u u a n t - ho e r -
the after part is erected f p d from of

poop, which occupies about two thirds of the whole length of the boat. The poop comprehends two rooms—the one in front being used as a sitting, and the after one as a bed room. The beam or breadth of the budgerow may be in the centre about ten or eleven feet, and the height of the poop nearly seven. The roof is flat, and is a place of constant resort morning and afternoon, when the boat is under way, it being customary to have chairs placed there at those times. When the weather is cool, and the vessel rapidly progressing, it is a very agreeable pastime to sit on the poop, and watch the trees, villages, and other objects ashore, as they seem gliding by in ever-changing panoramic review.

Inward to the budgerow, we were pro-
the squ. understand what, which was appropri-
lem, driv. worthies: it was also particularly
am long after instance, as I found nothing to the shore for fowls,
Mohammedan villages.
Their vouch elat rcles of consumption are
captain adverse to their religious
anticipate the far
as almost, by far,

prejudices to possess them. With milk we were abundantly provided from two small Bengalee goats, which we carried along with us.

The little cook-boat was, moreover, useful when treating with fishermen for their ware, or for conveying us ashore when we chose to walk along the beach, gun in hand, while our more stately argosy held on its uninterrupted course.

I find that I am running quite ahead of my narrative, and describing our voyage even before we were fairly on board. I must, therefore, curb these impatient adv^r... until I can bring up the rear. vellers can on

begged that we would recommend him to any of our friends in the provinces who might be coming to Calcutta at some future period, which we promised to do.

Milden, as I insisted he should, took possession of the bed-room, he being the senior. My cot was placed in the front room, and being convertible into a couch, was used as such in the day-time. Our baggage, not in immediate use, was stowed away commodiously in the hold through a trap-door, where it rested on cross-beams, and was secure from any damage by water. Thus the poop, 'y snugly housed.

The fore other objects appropriated to the crew. It is so in ever-changing when exercising the Ingrā. to the h̄r, seldom required in a s̄c squ. understand̄. current, except for the pur- lempy, div. worthlies. n w̄side of the river to am long after tancee. as I found mching to the

“ Their un Moham̄ow, at the first much elat̄cles of gust off, and com- nicipate the f̄r captair adyeam under main and r̄fancast, byd

top sails. The breeze was fresh and fair, and when Milden and I arose, we were making rapid progress. The forest of masts off Calcutta had well nigh disappeared in the distance.

This mode of travelling on the rivers of India is truly delightful. It unites almost all the pleasurable qualities of both land and sea journeying. The motion is so gentle, that it rarely offers any impediment to the amusement of drawing, or indeed any household occupation whatsoever; and the facility of landing to stroll along the beach, when the weather permits, is a luxury that ocean travellers can only dream of.

Every good ~~happie~~ ^{is} obliged to have recourse and, therefore, all this melancholy holy exception of pinnace only ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{at} ~~for~~ ^a ~~the~~ ^{weather,} for want of no ^{more} ~~more~~, ^{the} ~~bottomed~~, and draw very ^{little} ~~in~~ ^{at} kindly thirty inches, which ^{ent} ~~a~~ ^{us} ^{as} ^{shallows;} but for the ^{sces} ^{rem} ^{of} ^{the} ^{wing} ^{too} ^{liable} ^{to} ^{be} ^{upset} ^{The} ^{as} ^{the} ^{Merchant} ^{holes} ^{and} ^{many}, indeed, are thus ^{found} ^{from} ^{off} ^{and} ^{on}:—

Milden and I did not leave Calcutta alone. Another budgerow joined us, in which were two young officers, named Horsman and Speering, also proceeding to our station, who had proposed to join our flotilla. The party thus consisted of four ensigns destined to the station at Berhampore.

I think I never saw other two such prodigious *griffs* as Horsman and Speering. I felt myself quite an old *Qui hy* in their company, and showed them I thought so. The character of Milden I have not yet drawn. I was hardly at that time qualified fully to appreciate it, though it swayed over me. He his judgment seem- lent moral principle. afterwards proverbial, ably be swayed from its even by ridicule, which soon keener wit. Although me fully developed sufficiently the elements

of them at the period of which I write, to cause us to consider him as a sensible companion and counsellor. I felt very thankful for the possession of such a friend.

Our first day's progress was remarkably good. We passed Barrackpore, Scramporc, Chander-nagore, Chinsurah, and at last came to for the evening a little above Hooghly. We stayed at none of the above-mentioned places, being anxious to avail ourselves to the utmost of the wind, which propelled us cheerily, even after the turn of the tide.

On the following morning the wind was slack, insomuch that we were obliged to have recourse to the tow-rope. This method, which they call tracking, is the only one by which a boat can be got along the river when there is no wind. A rope is passed through a hole made in a kindly boat, through the middle of a spar, as reeved, and the dandees, men of the village, pull it along the shore in measured paces from off-shore.

bly keep the step. At times they are obliged to swim across tributary nullas, and very often, when the shore is too distant from sufficient depth of water for the passage of the boat, they are obliged to wade for hours together beneath a fiery sun. This is, indeed, a trying life, yet they are cheerful labourers. They rarely, I believe, attain to any great age.

At about noon this day we received a violent shock, as of an earthquake, accompanied by a scent, assuredly not brought by the sweet south over a bank of violets, but one of a much less agreeable nature. On inquiry we found that the carcass of a defunct elephant, in an advanced stage of decomposition, had struck against our boat, in our way. Two of the men, who were working on the bank where they had buried the animal, were severely injured, and died before they could be reached. We had ourselves of this unfeeling crew, and forward him on his way. He was done by slackening off the back-rope, and allowing the budge-

row to go fairly round, when the intruder took leave, and floated away, to our no' small satisfaction.

The following evening our travelling companions contrived to get into a scrape. We descried them at a considerable distance from their boat, retreating doggedly and slowly towards it, before a "*tail*" of angry villagers, which would have quadrupled *Daniel's* in the number of joints. Fortunately the bark of the Bengalees is in general worse than their bite. In this instance, however, they pressed upon our friends very closely, and complimented them with some of their richest oriental flowers of rhetoric. The leader was evidently a holy man, being smeared over with soot, ^{and} ash, which dirt and ashes formed his raiment: his forehead was painsticked in a kindly and his sole garment was a ^{thin} ^{as} cloak, round his loins. He was of a tall walking in his hand. His bearing was dignified, though the extreme, though he abstained from other amj:—

personal violence to the unfortunate offenders. His companions, who followed, applauded their reverend leader's oratory most vehemently.

Thus escorted, the gallant ensigns gained at length their castle, but the clamour continued, and became even more violent after they had stepped on board. We could not at all divine the meaning of so unexpected an apparition emerging from the small village that lay a little way in-shore. Shortly, however, it melted away like a summer cloud. In ten minutes the whole were lost sight of.

When the alarm had ceased, the besieged again vented forth, and immediately came to sorrowful hearts to us. They said, that they had done ~~were~~ the people. They had mè lumps of earth * at a little, and fifty-armed image under ~~tree~~. They had seen many such that

* There are no stones in the plains of Hindostan.

they could have bought for two or three pice a piece in the China bazaar. Of these unnecessary heads and arms they had deprived it of about one half, when that savage ourang-outang of a man perceived him, and immediately collected all the villagers. He then came upon them with such grimaces and diabolical utterances, followed by his black angels, that they were obliged to retreat. They ultimately pacified him, by giving a rupee, on the suggestion of a servant, for the purchase of another god, which he took altogether to himself, and over the walked away, discharging, at the sly, with much rabble from further duty. Chero were obliged to grog soon restored their equanimity of wind lesson had, however, been taught, al though unfortunately they received it in Bc were, the abo India they would have fared dif^{er}ently kindly so well.

The succeeding day is men. ^{of} " ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^v ^a ^{ing}
den and melancholy disappearance ^{phant} ^{hor} ^e.
bur Buksh, Horsman's Khidmutgar, ^{sam} :—e

waiter, a most accomplished English classical scholar. He was not missed till the afternoon dinner-hour, when the 'sad fact was brought to notice by his second in command, the Massalchce, or under waiter, who wanted the silver forks and spoons wherewithal to adorn the table. Alas! they were not to be found. Pyghumbur Buksh (*Anglicc*, the gift of the Prophet) had conveyed them away in a determined *fit of absence*.

Speering's were gone too, as their property a sharn clubbed together for mutual conve- were lost sig.

When there to say that the young men gave again vent utterance of language not strictly

in the matter was unfolded to
tced them to join their commons
line in our boat, and thereby
t our means and appliances,

admutgar was seen no more. That
in, "a peasant's is the tale," a person

answering to his description had been seen to hail a boat going down the river, which came to and took him on board. It then set forward again without further loss of time.

On the following day we passed Plassey, the scene of the decisive action fought in 1757, between Lord (then Colonel) Clive and Surajah Dowlah, Nuwab of Bengal, which finally secured the possession of Bengal to the British. The bed of honour, we were told, had become the bed of the river, from the latter's change of course, and we consequently sailed over the field. The day was very squally, with much thunder and lightning, and we were obliged to moor twice or thrice when the g^r of wind came on violently. This weather ^{at first} breaking up of the rainy season ^{were, that} being it became fair, and we ^{placed in a} kindly temple that was near our hal^l us, ^{as} was little to be seen within the ^{of} ^{it} ^v ^u ⁱ ^g ^{an} ^{image of} ^Gunesh having his elephant ^{hol} ^e adorned with a chaplet of large jessam^e.

flowers. For the enjoyment of this treat we had to pull off our boots, and pay a rupee !

At about two o'clock on the succeeding day, we were in imminent danger of being lost. For, whilst sailing along with a fair breeze, we were suddenly checked by some extraordinary kind of obstruction. On investigation we discovered that we had got jammed in between two branches of a sunken tree. Here we were detained for a couple of hours, and were obliged to ask assistance from our consort. The water being very deep, it was with difficulty we were released. We then made the best of our way to the nearest village, where the budgerow was carcened and examined, as she had taken in

n in usual. Little harm was done, re fairly brought up for the re-line .

In this way are exceedingly the Ganges. The river changes course so rapidly, by undermining the banks, that I have seen whole groves of large forest

trees submerged, having been totally uprooted by the force of the current, and lying prostrate in the newly-made bed. They occur frequently in deep water, and not being visible, are particularly dangerous to boats, which are often overset and lost from collision with them. When the river encroaches in this manner on a village, the inhabitants march away with their thatched roofs and property, and leave the bare mud walls standing. Many of these deserted villages may be seen on the banks of the Ganges. The inhabitants settle themselves farther in-shore, where they build new walls, and place the old roof thereon. The natives, speaking of this occurrence, say such and such a village has run away.

A village will also "run away" ~~where, the habit~~ of a night, in case of oppression in any kindly have thus passed over from us, ~~us~~ as his Majesty of Oude, into those of ~~the~~ ~~company~~ ~~however~~.

CHAPTER III.

THE next night we arrived at Berhampore, but too late to go ashore ; and thus ended my first trip on the Ganges, or Hooghly, or Cossimbazar river, for at this part it is known by all these names. Milden had principally occupied himself in the study of Hindostanee. I also had given myself to the same pursuit, pretty well up to a more locomotive and active than my companion, I made slower progress than he. Horsman and Ling, too, had studied, but more leisurely ; but instead of books, had principally consulted

their servants ; so that their acquirements were not of the most courtly character.

Our budgerow had been brought to, a short distance below the European hospital, and a little above the flag-staff, under the shade of some tall trees. Those who are acquainted with Berhampore will at once recognise the spot. At ten o'clock on the morning after our arrival we made our bow to the adjutant of the regiment to which we were for the present to remain attached. This was Lieutenant Harley, a gentlemanly man, who kindly escorted us to the house of our commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Cooly. " You'll find him an odd fish," said our conductor, " but you must not mind him."

We found his highness seated at a fog having had his breakfast, with a hookah-pipe, ~~the pipe~~ hand, and a *sneaker* of tea placed in a kindly. He scarcely deigned to notice us, as asked his adjutant some questions respecting recruit who was about to be introduced, after which desired us to sit down. As we had

been by any means accustomed to the presence of so high and mighty a personage, we expressed ourselves humbly grateful, and did as we were told.

After some seconds of terrific silence, I was thus addressed by the great man, I suppose because I was the nearest to him : " Your name is Milden, I think ? "

" No, sir," answered I, " my name is Thorne ; this gentleman is Mr. Milden."

" Well, it don't signify—how many days have you been on the river ? "

" Eight or nine, sir," I replied.

" You must have loitered in Calcutta ; your names have been on our rolls for three weeks."

" W~~h~~e~~r~~ remained there a month, sir, by now the adjutant-general," observed

A vice-letter was here brought in, which Muel Cooly opened and read. " How's this, Mr. Ley ? " said he, peevishly ; " was it not in

orders, only last week, that the officer of the day should personally wait on me with his report? Write to Mr. Figgins, and request his reasons for flying in the face of orders so lately issued."

"I can tell you myself, sir," responded his staff-officer; "he is on station-duty at the main guard to-day."

"Hum!" again. After a pause—"Put these young men in the book to attend all parades, drills, guard-mountings, and the officer of the day in his rounds, till further orders."

We sat for a few minutes longer in great humility, wishing ourselves, or perhaps the great commander himself, far away, when Harley, having first ascertained that through a fog, further instructions for him at short notice, stepped in to our relief, by proprie in a friendly manner, to choose our quarters; on which us leave of our commander.

On regaining the outside of the house Lieutenant Harley thus addressed us:—e

" Well, youngsters, what do you think of Old Gruff?"

" I don't think I shall like him much," was my reply; " but I suppose he is like all other commanding officers."

" God forbid!" replied the adjutant, with evident sincerity; " but come along, lads, you will not be so badly off—there are some hearty fellows, you will find, in the regiment."

With the assistance of our kind conductor, Milden and I speedily fixed upon excellent quarters, in the front row of the south range of officers' barracks, and were afterwards introduced by him to most of our brother officers, on whom we called. At the mess in the evening we met the ~~w^t~~ ^{new} officers of the regiment, and also ~~now~~ ^{the} ~~old~~ ^{old} men, who, like ourselves, ~~were~~ ^{were} bound to do duty with the corps, either a party of about eighteen, were most hospitably received, and soon ~~were~~ ^{got} ourselves quite at home. That night we had much merriment, and thought we had good

reason to congratulate ourselves on having our present lot cast amongst so many good fellows. Horses were offered to and accepted by us for a ride in the morning, and we were told not to care about attending the first parade after our arrival. We retired to our new domicile about midnight, highly delighted with our reception in the gallant corps with which we were to serve our apprenticeship.

Early the following morning two horses were brought to us ready caparisoned. Not being fully prepared to attend the parade as part and parcel thereof, we mounted the steeds, and took up a retired position, whence we could overlook the morning service. The early day was highly favourable for the study of a Bengal fog. The vapour, for the height of about ~~more~~, ^{the above} the surface of the earth, lay ~~are~~ ⁱⁿ a kindly white sea. The upper atmosphere ~~is~~ ^{as} sharply clear from it as ocean is from sky ~~is~~ ^{at}ting an unclouded tropical sunset. The tops of trees and houses rested like islets on this milky plain.

On looking towards the parade-ground, where the men were already assembled, we saw distinctly, in the broad light of morn, the mounted officers in the act of riding, but their horses were invisible, and the effect was indescribably ludicrous. The sergeants' pikes and the bayonets of the men glanced and danced about, and took up new positions without any visible agency. As the sun rose, this vapoury waste gradually sank, or rather *appeared* to sink into the earth, like a subsiding mass of water, and the heads, bodies, and legs of the soldiery became gradually exposed till all was clear.

From my introductions at Berhampore, I shortly became acquainted with Major, Mrs., and Miss Snowden. The major at this time was ~~a~~ an invalid establishment, having been ~~ever~~ campaigning. It was on his own application that he had been permitted to retire from active service, in order to domesticate himself quietly with his wife and daughter, being

sufficiently gratified with the laurels he had already won. He was a cheerful, hospitable man, and a great favourite with all the young people. Mrs. Snowden was a country-born lady, also very kind and hospitable, had high aristocratical notions respecting the future settlement of her daughter, and was very showy in her costume. Miss Amelia Snowden, sixteen years of age, was a good-humoured, half-educated girl, who had enjoyed a two years' residence in England, during a furlough which her father had taken for the benefit of her instruction. With this family I soon formed a visiting acquaintance, paying, as was perhaps natural, some rather marked attentions to its younger branch.

The cantonments of Berhampore, which I have not yet described, may vie in a kindly way with any military station in India.

The barracks for the officers and the European troops form a large square, the interior of which is a beautiful grass lawn, preserved from the

pressure of unlawful feet by sentries. The quarters for general and field-officers are on the west side, and very commodious, with gardens in the rear. In the centre of this side is a broad opening, which displays the well-trimmed flag-staff on the bank or embankment of the river, and here all the Moorshedabad and Berhampore world assemble three evenings in the week to be delighted with military music.

On the eastern face of the square stand the soldiers' barracks, three separate buildings, each a palace to appearance, and on the northern and southern faces are captains' and subalterns' quarters in two ranges, all spacious and excellent, provided with bathing-rooms, and other comforts essential in a tropical climate. There are fire-places in some of these houses, but not in all; ~~the~~ ^{they} could occasionally be very acceptable in December and January.

Along the rear of the soldiers' barracks lies a very large oblong tank, memorable as having been the scene of a bailiff-ducking. This pesti-

lence visited Berhampore with fell intent to seize an officer, but was himself taken captive by the soldiers, who, having first belted him according to the most approved method, gave him a sound ducking in the tank, and then discharged him.

Such acts as these are, of course, very unjustifyable ; but if it be considered that officers, for no very large sums, have been conveyed away from their regiments to considerable distances, exceeding a thousand and twelve hundred miles, to the Calcutta jail, No. 1, Cheringhee, it cannot be a matter of surprise that little scruple should be made as to the means of evading a sheriff's officer. The sepoys have a fierce hatred of the genus, and would gladly, if they could, put Johnny Doc very summarily out of the way. To my knowledge this service has been kindly volunteered to an officer.

Some years ago a bailiff was observed prowling about Benares in search of his prey. Two battalions of sepoys, who were stationed there,

having collected as large a rabble of boys as they could muster, and being themselves off duty and in undress, accompanied this limb of the law ten miles on a forced march towards Calcutta. Great were the beating of tomtoms, chilumchees, thalees, lotas,* &c., and the shoutings, hootings, and derisive cheerings of their youthful but remarkably energetic allies. On taking leave of him, he was kindly advised not to return, and he took the hint. *

Commandants of stations are called upon to protect a sheriff's officer on announcing himself in cantonments, and when this protection is claimed, it is at times granted effectually.

The visitor is placed under the special care of a corporal's party, who are enjoined by no means to lose sight of him, and thus he is marched about whithersoever he chooses to go, but under fixed bayonets, and a complete prisoner virtually, so long as he remains at the place. Sometimes, as an additional honour, a drum and fife have been

* Vessels of brass for washing, cooking, holding water, &c.

considerately accorded, in order that all whose appearance might cause his feelings to be excited should be duly warned to keep out of his sight.

To return to my topography. From the north-east angle of the square leads the road to the city of Moorshedabad. The main guard lies a little retired from the left of this road and immediately outside of the square of buildings. This minute detail may appear superfluous, but it is nevertheless necessary; for that identical main guard was on one occasion the conspicuous scene of my juvenile sublimity. It was there that I first mounted guard, and it was on the evening of the same day that I exclaimed, "Stand to your arms, my men," at the very moment that I perceived Miss Snowden passing in the carriage with her father and mother. There was nothing miraculous in this coincidence, for I had contrived it by means of a running sentry, who gave me due notice of their approach, without inquiring my reason for ordering it.

Beautiful vision! she recognised me, "and

waved her lily hand!" Neither the pen of angels nor of martyrs could describe my feelings on that great occasion! O the suffocating sensation! O the mighty swelling of heart that then expanded my frame!

I believe I made several blunders, to the great amusement of the soldiers. They did not speak, to be sure, but I saw it in their faces. I should have added the climax to their enjoyment by piling the arms with bayonets unfixed, but for the kindly interposition of a sergeant. Why I unfixed them at all, I know not.

Reader! excuse this detention at the main guard, for indeed I can on no occasion get past it without yielding the tribute of a sigh to the memory of scenes fled, alas, for ever!

On the right of the Moorshedabad road, and opposite the main guard, stands the six-pounder that announces daily the return of morning dawn, and evening bed-time (soldiers' bed-time). It is placed on the bank of the tank already mentioned, and a sepoy sentry is there stationed.

It was here that I witnessed a native soldier's ingenuity exerted on an English comrade in arms. One evening at dusk, as I chanced to be strolling near the sentry's beat, I perceived a European soldier proceeding on his way to the barracks, carrying what is called a kedgeree pot, or earthen vessel, with great care. Now, any unsanctioned vessel containing liquor is strictly prohibited admission into barracks, and all sentries are ordered to attend particularly to this. The soldier being challenged by the sepoy, and desired to surrender his prize, put down the vessel, squared himself, and offered to box for a glass.

" You may pass on," said the sentry.

John Bull, availing himself of this permission, took up his well-beloved burthen of arrack, and proceeded on his way. He had not, however, advanced more than a few paces, when he felt a shock on the arm which bore the load, and on looking to discover the cause, he became aware that a bayonet had passed through his fragile

vessel, and that its contents were pouring on the earth. Great were his astonishment and wrath, and he now seriously prepared himself to make an assault, but on this second occasion his demonstrations were met by the bayonet held firmly at the charge, ready to receive him. I now felt it high time to interfere, and did so, which put a stop to hostilities.

A little further along the road is the burial-ground, and to the right of it the sepoy-lines and parade-ground. To the former spot I have followed several of my companions to their last home. The loss of one's friends in a country where sickness is so frequent, and dissolution so rapid, is, at the first entrance into life, a very sad and sorrowful subject for meditation; but the repeated visitations of death in the midst of young and lusty life speedily tend to benumb the more reflective feelings of our nature; and regret for the loss of a companion not often outlives the day of his funeral, unless the ties of friendship have been very close. This care-

lessness does not arise from any want of real kindly feeling; for, in India, sick persons are attended by their friends with a tenderness that might only be expected, perhaps, from the hands of near and dear relatives. It arises from a sense of the greatly reduced value of life. A sort of "Ah, well! it may be my turn next—as likely as not—no use in fretting—a short life and a merry one." And thus the door is closed to reflection.

It is too well known that where life is held on the most frail tenure, death is invariably least regarded, and religion kept aloof as an unpleasant and gloomy monitor. This is a fearful thing, but it is the truth. There are indeed exceptions, but, alas, how few!

In this churchyard without a church is an obelisk monument raised over the remains of the late George Thomas, one of the most extraordinary men that the Eastern world has known, perhaps, for ages. He would be an excellent hero for the very able pen of a Fraser or a Mo-

rier, though possibly his real acts might need little aid from their inventive powers to render the tale impressively interesting. As his life was itself an interesting romance, I take leave to recommend the perusal of it.*

I have now completed my survey of Berhampore in this direction, and make a halt where two roads separate—the one on the right leading past the defunct provincial battalion lines to Moorshedabad, and the other to Cossimbazar, the principal silk-manufactory in India. Before I quit the subject, however, I must offer my tribute of applause to the civil authorities, through whose agency the roads about Berhampore are (or were) kept in excellent order.

On my first arrival at Berhampore I had employed a moonshee, or native teacher, to instruct me in the Hindostanee language. He was a very enlightened Mussulman, named Dost Ali, and

* "Memoirs of the Life and Military Exploits of George Thomas, a General in the service of the Native Powers in the North-west of India." By Captain William Franklin.

appeared perfectly acquainted with both our Old and New Testament histories. Indeed the Mahummedan religion is grounded on these.

As I had been brought up with great religious care, and on my departure from England was made sensible that the conversion of the heathen would be one of my most glorious objects in a foreign country, I thought that, for my first attack, the moonshee would be an excellent stronghold against which to break ground ; wisely calculating that if I could carry by storm so important an outwork, I might by that opening assault the enemy in the very citadel he held in the heart of my household. My first endeavour was to convince him that Mahummed was a prodigious rascal ; but this preliminary I never could establish. Here we split ; and from that day to this I have never personally entered into contest with the enemy on foreign ground, though I may have occasionally contributed my mite towards his expulsion by abler tacticians. He must however be attacked before he has

thrown up all his intrenchments around the human heart. I have marvellously little faith in the conversion of old idol-worship-devoted Hindoos. The ancient oak in Moccas Park, Herefordshire, is as lithe as they are, and might with equal facility be trained anew. There are several excellent schools in India now, of which I may say more hereafter.

Dost Ali admitted that our Saviour was a great prophet, and would by no means allow that he was crucified. He maintained that when he was betrayed, he was carried up into heaven by an angel, who at the same moment passed his hand across the face of Judas Iscariot, who (Judas) instantaneously became the counterpart of Jesus Christ in form and feature, and was himself crucified.

One afternoon when the heat of the sun had abated, a small party of us went on a shooting expedition to Pope's* Jheel. This is a fine

* How it became possessed of this appellation I know not.

sheet of water about two or three miles from the barracks. It is said to be four miles in length, and is sufficiently broad to admit of three punts or small boats abreast, at the distance of seventy or eighty yards apart, provided the outward boats proceed along the shore. This jheel is a celebrated place of resort for wild fowl; and many hundreds, if not thousands, of geese, ducks, teals, divers, and many other birds, are to be found there. Each boat is attended by a single native, who manages it by means of a bamboo pole, which is pressed against the side or bottom according to circumstances, for there is no rudder.

Our party consisted of the two inseparables, Horsman and Speering, who embarked in one long-shore craft; Milden and myself in the

the native name is, I believe, Moteg Jheel, or Lake of Pearls. It formerly was part of the channel of the Cossimbazar river, or Hooghly, which will account for its length being so great in proportion to the breadth.

centre ; and O'Farrel and Ensign Larkins were in the opposite coasting vessel. The afternoon was delightful. The sun had retired to his winter-quarters, and though still hot and bright, the heat and glare were so sufficiently subdued as to be by no means unpleasant. We commenced our operations in high spirits, having arranged ourselves as before described. The water was so transparently clear, that the bright green aquatic plants, which covered the bed of the lake, sparkled in the sun's rays like emeralds, and it seemed quite sinful in the villain boatman to stir the mud with his bamboo.

We proceeded gaily onwards, driving before us various detached parties of wild fowl, and occasionally managing to bring down one out of a multitude at a long shot, till at length we came near the end of the jheel. Here the whole body of the enemy lay like a dense mass upon the water. We were well prepared for them. "Now rose from sea to sky" an awful quacking, which, according to the language of Homer, shook

with affright. Fearful confusion was in the ranks of the foe, when suddenly the whole dark surface of the lake appeared to rise into the air. One soul seemed simultaneously to have given impulse to thousands of wings. The object of the immense adverse army was evidently to take up a position on the opposite extremity of the lake, whence we had started. Over our heads they came, and at this critical juncture we each discharged two barrels into the density of the living cloud. Upwards of twenty birds of different sorts fell killed or wounded, the latter of which were pursued, and, according to Don Carlos's summary and approved mode, put to death. Each boat was then wheeled about, and thus in reversed order we returned, pursuing the same plan of attack as before. The birds were more wary, however, and flew considerably higher than they had previously done. We let fly amongst them notwithstanding, and were again tolerably successful. We had more amusement on this second round; for one large goose,

shot, I imagine, from our centre boat, came down with an emphasis on the head of Daniel O'Farrel, that caused him to give a heavy lurch to port, which upset the boat, and immersed himself, Larkins, and their sable attendant, into the water. Immense was the triumphant quacking overhead—furious was the mirth of Horsman and Speering, while the poor, dripping, goose-defeated sportsmen scrambled ashore as they best could.

' There was never any lack of sport at Berham-pore. Snipes were abundant, as also many other kinds of game, some of which we almost daily either killed or frightened.'

' Ensign O'Farrel, generally addressed by the national *sobriquet* of Paddy or Pat, was, in reality, a good-tempered, well-educated Hibernian, with whom the "sweet brogue" was more as a garment than part of himself, for he could cast it off as he chose. But he preferred to wear it, as he said he could speak with more warmth on a subject in it. He was rather too fond of puns,

but still he was kind and humane, as the following will prove ; for, after all, it is in trifles that the real character is best seen. When Paddy first travelled about Calcutta in a palkee, on hearing the diabolical grunts of the bearers, he got out to walk ; for he said, " Poor devils ! they must be in great pain—they groan so." *

Of Larkins I have little to say, except that he was also a punster, and a most execrable one. If he could have divested himself of that odious propensity, he would have been a tolerably pleasant companion.

I have omitted to mention that the city of Moorshedabad is the most noted place in India for exquisite carving in ivory. Hawkers of chessmen, Chinese and other puzzles, in great

* The bearers of palkees invariably grunt like paviors, as they trot along. They utter their dismal sounds alternately, somewhat in the following manner : " Hih, hah, huh, hah !—huh, hah, huh, hah !"

variety, card-cases, letters, &c. &c. occasionally visit the cantonments.

One of these worthies called at my quarters shortly after our arrival, while I was yet dependent on my durzee as an interpreter. I was very much smitten with one most elegant set of chessmen, the price of which I demanded to know.

“Do koree rupeea, sahib (two score of rupees, sir.)

“*Hoot, Teree!*” exclaimed my durzee, with great indignation. Then turning to me, “He say forty rupee, master—if master want to buy, say six rupee; he very great cheat.”

“I will go so far as twenty,” said I; “so make the best bargain you can for me.”

“*Chu rupeea,*” (six rupees,) said the durzee to the hatheedant wala, (ivory man.)

“*Khodawund hüm’ ghureeb admee, do ushurree, ap dejeco.*”

“What’s that, durzec?”

“He say, him poor rogue—your honor will

give him two gold mohur*—he will take. (To the hawker.) Master will give eight rupee, ath rupeea.”

“ Nuheen Khodawund, choubees rupeea ghoolam ka khurced, khoda khusm—puchees rupeea ap hookm deejeco.”

“ Expound, durzee,” again said I.

“ Master, he one very great lie tell—he say him prime cost twenty-four rupee, but if master will give him twenty-five,”—then again addressing the travelling merchant—“ Ho huramzadu ! dus rupeea le—nuheen tq—jao juhanhum ko.”

Which being *very* freely and politely interpreted, may run thus—“ Ho, my fine fellow, take ten rupees—if not, take yourself off.”

After considerable more coquetting on the part of the ivory dealer—after he had taken leave once or twice, to see if he could not by that means induce me to yield, and after my durzee had conceded, by little and little, rupee

* A gold mohur is sixteen rupees.

after rupee, in the most gentle-oozing manner imaginable, taking out the value of each successive concession in the abuse, so indispensably necessary on such occasions, of all the vendor's relations, male and female, especially the latter, the purchase was made for sixteen rupees, or about 1*l. 14s.* In England the price would have been very much greater than that. I dare not even venture to surmise the sum.

Time passed away, the year went round, and the cold weather, which for some months had breathed new vigour into our European constitutions, had again retired to the far north, or to its strongholds in the Himalaya mountains.

The 1st of April arrived—that great day on which many persons are so prone to make fools, not of others, but themselves. Horsman, with Speering; and one or two other confederates, had sat up all the previous night, in order to execute a superb plot, already devised amongst them.

There chanced to be two widow ladies' resident in the neighbourhood, who lived about two

miles apart from each other. They had formerly been on very intimate terms, but some untoward event had occurred in these latter times, which, in sorrow I speak it, had separated them.

"They stood aloof, the scars remaining,
Like cliffs which had been rent asunder."

Our ingenious youths, mindful of the day, at about two o'clock in the morning, despatched a note to each of these ladies, as purporting to come from the other, with a request that she would immediately come to pay her a visit, having been seized with the cholera, and was therefore wishful to exchange forgiveness before death should part them forever.

The stratagem succeeded better than it deserved to do. The old ladies, each eager to forgive, met midway on the same errand at about four A.M. Alas! the breach became wider than ever—they blamed each other in no measured terms for the trick by which both were alike

sufferers, and——Let us draw a curtain over this scene, which, I grieve to record, was witnessed by the authors with unqualified delight.

In the month of May we were visited by the most terrific hail-storm I ever witnessed in the plains of India. It came from the north-east, and must have been cradled in the mountainous regions of that *airt*. At four P.M. the north-eastern horizon darkened to a pitchy blackness. The air was still, and not a sound disturbed the breathless tranquillity, save an occasional low growl of thunder very distant. The dark mass at first advanced so slowly that the motion was not perceptible, and we were only conscious that it *did* approach, in the manner we are aware that the hour-hand of a clock has moved after an interval of time.

Suddenly a flash of lightning clove the thick gloom, which, for an instant, only disclosed a gulph of liquid and living fire, that made the succeeding darkness more intense; a crash of thunder followed, that shook the habitations of men to their very foundations.

It seemed as if this first discharge were the signal for a general storm, which now came on rapidly; the lightning gradually became one flashing stream of fire, the thunder an unceasing roar above and around us, accompanied by a continued fall of hail.

There appears to be a general depression of nature, animate and inanimate, during a thunder-storm, and the wildest spirits seem attempered to seriousness. It is felt as the voice of the Ruler of all worlds, that *will* be heard and listened to with solemn awe and deep reverence by all his creatures; and I have seen the most reckless scoffers at religion abide with blanched cheek and in solicitous anxiety the duration of a storm, and "the boldest hold his breath" while the voice of the Lord of all things has spoken in thunder.

The storm lasted in its fullest violence for about two hours; and after it had ceased, an evening so calm, so cool, so ethereally beautiful, succeeded, that words would utterly fail in an

attempt to describe it. Those who have witnessed such a storm will also have experienced the calm relief, and joyousness of spirit which succeed when the storm has passed away, and the agitated air again sighs itself to rest, refreshed and purified. In this storm several natives were killed by the lightning, and the flag-staff was shattered to pieces.

CHAPTER IV.

The time of our sojourn at Berhampore had now nearly expired. A fortunate increase in the army had given lieutenancies to all the ensigns of my standing, and the order had arrived which posted us finally to regiments. Those of us whose destinations were attainable by water convenience, were, by the kind and considerate permission of the government, allowed to remain at Berhampore until the rise of the river should render the shallow places navigable.

The water in the various rivers in India begins slowly to rise about the month of April,

although the rainy season does not commence in Upper Hindostan till late in June. This is consequent, in the first place, on the heavy falls of rain and hail in the mountains during March and April ; and, secondly, on the melting of the snow in the higher regions, when the sun becomes more vertical, and which appears to me to be one of the most striking and beautiful arrangements of Divine Providence which can be imagined.

Almost all the whole of Upper Hindostan is one vast plain, so level, that the fall of the Ganges, after quitting the mountains, is by survey averaged at four inches in the mile. From the breaking up of the rainy season, in the month of September, to its recommencement late in June, rain is scarcely known to fall, excepting in a very few light showers occasionally about Christmas. It may be well imagined, therefore, that the burning tropical sun, pouring its unceasing heat for nearly nine months successively upon the sandy soil of India, would

dry up the rivers, and calcine the surface of the land with all its vegetable produce to dust, had not the omniscient Creator caused the very agent of destruction itself to be its own corrector, even from the moment that the work of desolation would otherwise commence; for the self-same heat which parches the plains, opens exhaustless fountains of water in the mountains, by dissolving their snows, and the rivers are thus unceasingly supplied.

It was not till the commencement of July that we were able to leave Berhampore, as we were detained by the commanding officer of the station to perform the local dæties, in consequence of the paucity of officers, until the arrival of a new corps finally relieved us.

We commenced our voyage under the auspices of a fine easterly wind, which carried us rapidly up the Bhagritty.* On the third evening we

* The first stream that leaves the main river to find its own way to the Bay of Bengal. This branch, though a comparative rivulet, carries away with it all the holiness from the native

entered the mighty Ganges, which appeared like an ocean rolling its waves along. We came to for the night a few miles beyond the village of Sootee, where we found two budgerows with their attendant boats already moored. On inquiry we ascertained that they were tenanted by a small party of officers proceeding to Agra, my promised land.

Introductions are speedily effected in India, especially in the army. Milden and I sent a message with our cards to Captain Morland and his brother, a young lieutenant, purporting that we should be happy to wait on them in their boat, if perfectly agreeable to them. A polite answer came, that they should be glad to see us. We accordingly went, and introduced ourselves to the captain and his brother. The captain then performed the same ceremony between us and a third gentleman, who was in

Gunga, which, after this separation, is by the natives called Pudda.

their company. This was a Lieutenant Lake. Such was my first meeting with these officers, with whom I became subsequently on terms of great intimacy.

When Captain Morland returned to India, his brother Henry accompanied him as a cadet. He was now a lieutenant, for the East India army disavowed, as it were, the rank of ensign at that period, on account of the proper complement of lieutenants being incomplete. The intermediate grade was therefore passed through as a matter of form. These fine times could not, however, last for ever ; and I dare say the ensigns of the present day consider their stay in that rank sufficiently long.

Henry Morland was posted to the same regiment and battalion in which his brother was, by chance and not from application. He was of a "hasty temperament," kept, however, in considerable check by his brother's presence and example.

Our voyage on the Ganges was one of peculiar interest. There is a remarkable feature which attaches to that river throughout its whole course, from its entrance into the plains to the sea; one of its banks is invariably high, while the other is a mere low sandy plain, extending for some miles inland. When the low bank becomes elevated, which it generally does abruptly, the opposite one invariably as suddenly falls, so that during the rainy season the river has always sufficient space for expansion either to the right or left along the lower line of country! This would be a complete safety valve, as it were, for the protection of the towns and villages on the higher bank, were the latter composed of hard and durable material: but this is not the case; the soil is sandy, and consequently, when the current is strong during the flood season, the banks become rapidly undermined, and large masses fall continually into the water with a great noise. This causes, in a very few years,

a material change in the course of the river, and particularly affects landed property. In a single season large estates become completely embedded, and new ones created from fresh deposits of alluvion. The Ganges, during the rains, is so muddy, that Major Rennell says, "The quantity of sand held in suspension by its waters is so great, that in the year 1794, one of the mouths of the Bhageruttee," (Ganges,) "at Sadigunge, full five miles in length, was in the course of a week filled up very nearly to a level with the contiguous country, although it must have contained about nine hundred million solid feet. In the neighbourhood of Colgong, where the depth of the river is in many places upwards of seventy feet, new islands have risen to more than twenty feet above the level of the stream. At about two hundred and forty miles from the sea by the river, there is a variation in its height of thirty-one feet at different seasons." This is immense, when we consider the amazing

increase in the breadth of water for each foot of elevation in so level a country.

I have thought it advisable to give the above sketch of the Ganges, as it may render the narrative of my journey along its devious course more intelligible.

About noon on the second day after our departure, we discovered right ahead a large fleet of boats, like our own, proceeding upwards. These contained detachments of European soldiers, with their officers, who were *en route* to join their various regiments stationed in the interior. As their vessels were for the most part much heavier sailers than ours, we rapidly gained upon them, and had nearly closed in with the rear, when our manjhee (both pilot and helmsman) advised us to run ashore with all speed, and moor awhile, as a heavy squall appeared brewing to windward. To this we immediately acceded, as it is very dangerous to thwart these people in their wishes on such oc-

casions. Many young men have lost their lives, or property, or both, by so doing. Not only ourselves, but the whole fleet, appeared actuated almost simultaneously by the same impulse ; and we had all well nigh snugly sheltered ourselves, when a rush of wind swept suddenly across the river, that was perfectly irresistible. One boat only, a heavy sluggish barge, had not yet attained the shore, and it was upset in an instant. It contained soldiers, with some women and children, besides the boatmen. Fortunately, the vessel had succeeded in getting clear away from the strong current of the river, and lay in almost still, though deep water, at the distance of perhaps twenty yards from the shore. The boatmen (who are almost amphibious), and the soldiers who could swim, made their way to land ; but the remainder, with the women, were in a most perilous situation. The poor creatures were seen clinging, as their only hope, to the wreck, which was mo-

mentarily yielding to the violence of the storm, and must inevitably go to pieces very shortly. The boatmen offered no aid, and the soldiers who were able to swim were struggling in the waves for their own lives.

At this moment a young sepoy belonging to the native guard which accompanied the detachment, "a strong swimmer," plunged in from the shore, made his way to the heaving vessel with astonishing speed, and returned ashore with one saved. This he repeated eight or nine times, each successive time rescuing a perishing fellow-creature from a watery grave, till at length the wreck went to pieces, and one soldier and two children sank to rise no more.

The humane sepoy was soon after promoted to the rank of *naick* (corporal). The whole battalion was paraded for the purpose of witnessing his preferment; and in front of it, the two chevrons, or official stripes, were attached

to his sleeve ; also the order from government for his promotion, with a high encomium on his excellent conduct, was read aloud to the men.

Shortly after this, we came within sight of the Rajmuhal hills, and on the eighth day from our departure arrived at Rajmuhal. This place was once the capital of Bengal. The palace of its former princes is, however, nothing now but a mass of ruins.

Although from a distance Rajmuhal appears to stand at the foot of a range of hills, it is in reality considerably apart from them. The country around is very beautiful. Bengal scenery begins to lose its exclusive character, and merges into that of Hindostan Proper. Cocoa-nut trees we have lost sight of, but the toddy* and date-palms are numerous.

* Toddy—the sap of a species of palm. An incision is made overnight in the bark of the tree, where the leaves begin to branch from the stem, and an earthen vessel is slung underneath for the purpose of receiving the liquor as it drops from

Many of these trees are hung round with the nests of the *baya*. Neither the English nor Linnaean name of this bird do I know, though I believe it is a sparrow of the hang-nest tribe. The nests are in the shape of bottles, which swell in the centre, and taper above and below. They are suspended from the very extremities of the arched palm-leaves, by means of a long fibrous root, which is exceedingly strong, and they swing with safety during a tempest. Nature has thus wonderfully provided a place of security for these birds against the attacks of monkeys and snakes.

the cut. When taken down at an early hour in the morning, the toddy is a pleasant and refreshing beverage. As it begins to ferment when the sun rises, it is used as yeast by Europeans for the making of bread, and is a very tolerable substitute. The fermentation is speedy, and in a remarkably short time the toddy becomes an intoxicating liquor. The natives climb the palm-trees with great agility. Their back is supported by a belt, which is passed also round the tree.

Considerably inland, on the opposite side of the river, and not many miles distant from Rajmuhal, stand the ruins of the ancient city of Goor or Gour. "Its decline and abandonment were caused by the desertion of the Ganges, which formerly flowed beside its walls. About two hundred years ago the course of the river took a new direction, turning off to a considerable distance from the place to which it had brought wealth and sanctity. To no part of the city, occupying a space of twenty square miles, does the Ganges now approach nearer than four miles and a half, and places formerly navigable are now twelve miles from the stream, which so unaccountably and capriciously forsook its ancient bed, leaving behind it all the melancholy consequences of the alienation of a powerful ally."

A voyage on the Ganges, when easterly winds prevail, is by no means devoid of danger. Squalls are very frequent, and in many cases

places of refuge are not attainable. The high abrupt bank oftentimes extends for some miles, and from it large masses are constantly breaking away, falling into the water with a plunge sufficiently heavy to dash a boat to pieces. The lower side of the river, too, is perhaps at the same time flooded for miles. In short, there is proportionably much greater loss of life and property in the navigation of this river than there occurs in sea voyages between England and her eastern dominions.

The military detachment lost two more boats and several lives before they reached Dinapore. The following anecdote is worthy of record : A private soldier of the 87th regiment having with difficulty reached the shore from a wreck, on looking back perceived a sergeant's wife still clinging to it, and calling in vain for assistance from the natives. Taking no thought for his own life, he plunged again into the stream, and succeeded in bringing her near the shore, when

he sank exhausted, to rise no more. The woman was saved. The second day after quitting Rajmuhal we passed Colgong. Two very bold and precipitous rocks, outposts belonging to the hills, here stand isolated in the river. The regular current being thus obstructed, the water flows between the rocks with amazing force, and causes many wrecks. On the summit of one of these rocks is a fakir's dwelling, who is supplied by persons on the mainland with all that is needful for his sustenance.

A few milcs beyond Monghir, which is the next station, there is a hot mineral spring called Seetacoond. The temperature of the water is, too high to admit of the hand being held in it for a moment. It is so highly estimated, that large quantities of it are bottled and sent to Calcutta, where it is purchased as ship-store by many persons about to undertake a sea-voyage. The most remarkable circumstance with this hot spring is, that it is very closely surrounded by

cold ones, which possess no mineral property whatever. I visited this place, and it was then at no great distance from the river, but I was told, when I last passed it, that the latter had removed itself some miles farther out of the neighbourhood.

Monghir is the Birmingham of India. Hardware of every description is to be had there. They manufacture *warranted* Mantons and Knives, which they sell for a mere trifle. So well indeed do they imitate English workmanship, that most persons might readily be deceived by their articles, were they offered for sale elsewhere. They are in general unsafe, although a serviceable fowling-piece may be selected. The most approved method of trying their ware is to put a triple charge of powder with shot into the barrel, then tie a string to the trigger, and fire it off at some distance from behind a tree or a wall. The dealer willingly permits this, on the understanding that if the

gun will pass through the ordeal of two or three such discharges without bursting, it is then to be purchased. Monghir is also famous for the sale of birds of the most beautiful plumage, in cages. When gentlemen's boats pass the station, the shore is immediately crowded with persons who come to dispose of their various wares, and the scene is extremely animated.

One evening, as our party was strolling on shore after the day's journey, we observed a native, of most filthy appearance, engaged in what appeared to us a very extraordinary process. He repeatedly laid himself on the ground at full length, making at the same time a mark in the sand close to the crown of his head; then rising, he placed his feet by the said mark, and lay down again as before. This process he might continue *ad infinitum* for aught we knew, as we saw no end to it, each successive prostration gaining one length of his body to the

southward. We addressed him and inquired his object. He returned us no answer, nor did he appear to notice us : we then made the same inquiry of some natives, who were also watching him, not with curiosity like ourselves, but with the most profound respect and reverence.

He was a devout fakir on his pilgrimage to Juggernaut, whither he was making his way in the manner described, namely, measuring the whole distance by the length of his body. He had already thus travelled more than three hundred miles, and as he had only about four hundred miles further to go, every hope was entertained of a prosperous conclusion to his journey. . . .

This is not an uncommon mode of performing a pilgrimage to Juggernaut. Our having addressed him under the expectation of receiving an answer, was attributed either to egregious ignorance or presumption, on the part of the native spectators : though, had we met with him

in any part of his journey under no observance but our own, the magic of a rupee would, I doubt not, have loosed his tongue, and "plucked the heart out of his mystery."

Soon after, we were securely moored in the nulla* at Dinapore, near the bridge and main-guard, a very safe and snug berth in stormy weather, but hot almost to suffocation.

It was on the afternoon of an August day that we arrived at Dinapore. Our first movement was to announce the event to Captain Dobbs, at whose quarters, and by whom, both Milden and myself had been invited to hoist our flags whenever we might chance to come in his way. Our notice was speedily responded to in the form of a palkee, sent and designed to convey us to the residence of our host, one at a time. Milden proceeded first, and I followed

* Nulla, a tributary rivulet. I forget whether the one in question be a river in *its own right*, or merely a stream from the Ganges higher up, to rejoin it at this place. In the latter case, it would be called by the natives a *sota*.

shortly afterwards, on the return of the carriage and four—(blacks.)

We found poor Dobbs in a very weakly state, just recovering from a severe fever, which had well nigh relieved him for ever from the cares of the world. We were much grieved to find him thus, but he welcomed us, notwithstanding, both cheerfully and heartily. He insisted upon sending for our cots to his house, as he said the confined place wherein our boat was moored, was sufficient of itself to engender disease. We conceded the point very graciously.

As Larkins had now arrived at his destination, he very judiciously intimated his presence to the adjutant of his regiment, and was in consequence shortly afterwards considerably visited by that functionary, accompanied by another brother officer. Business is briefly settled in military life, that is to say, such business as refers to choice of quarters and the like. On the recommendation, therefore, of his new friends and future comrades, Larkins became, ere the ex-

piration of two hours from his arrival, the sole tenant of "The Barber's Shop," well known to many of my military friends. Spcering and O'Farrel became his guests for the period of their sojourn at the place. The Morlands, with the poet, were at no loss for board and lodging, as their acquaintances at Dinapore were numerous.

We spent the first evening quietly with our friend Dobbs in his own quarters, as he was still too feeble to attend the mess of his regiment. A file of the latest Calcutta newspapers afforded us a high treat, and would of itself have been an ample amusement for the evening, independently of the conversation of our friend. I confidently call upon all persons of the Honourable Company's service—yes, and of her Majesty's too, who are, or have been, travellers on the Ganges, to corroborate my assertion that a file of late newspapers is the first desideratum on arrival at each successive post on that river *upwards*, after existing for several days in

total ignorance of mundane affairs, and more especially of the latest government civil and military appointments and promotions, and of the births, marriages, and deaths, which are to be found recorded under the head of "Domestic Occurrences."

The following morning we took a survey of the cantonment of Dinafore, which runs from west to east along the banks of the river. The European barracks form two handsome squares, or rather one immense oblong square, divided unequally into two by a transverse range of officers' quarters. The smaller square to the westward is principally appropriated to the accommodation of officers. The larger one is diversely applied, viz as officers' quarters, barracks for the men, and also as shops for English merchants; auction-room, theatre, &c. &c., when not required for government purposes.

The barracks have only a ground-floor, and the roofs are flat, as in Fort William. The rooms are high and airy. The great square is

divided into four large plots of grass by broad gravel roads, and this is the exercise ground for the European troops. The north face of the small square consists of bungalows, or thatched houses, which are generally occupied by staff or field officers. The sepoy lines and the European burial-ground lie to the westward of the squares, and require no particular notice. To the east, and on the Nullah, wherein our boat was moored, is the *main-guard*, which commands the principal road leading to the city of Patna, distant seven miles.

Bankipore is the civil station, and stands near to the city on the cantonment side. Between Dinapore and Bankipore are various bungalows and pucka * houses, with gardens along the river; and there is also a farm called Deegah Farm, on this road, about two miles from Dina-pore, conducted most admirably in the English .

* Pucka here means, built of burnt brick or stone, in contradistinction to kucha, built of sun-dried brick or mud. The strict meanings of these words are, "ripe" and "raw."

fashion by an English merchant, where almost every thing may be procured, and which furnishes stores to many stations some hundreds of miles distant. The proprietor also keeps, or did keep, an extensive shop on the premises, of miscellaneous articles, from millinery and saddlery down to jacks-in-the-box and bottled comfits; so that it is (or was) a place of much resort to men, women, and children.

At an early hour the next day, I rode out with a small party to the civil station of Bankipore before named, to see the Gola. This is a large brick building, constructed in the form of a bee-hive, called by the natives "Gola," from its round form. It was built many years ago by the British government as a storehouse for grain, when symptoms of failing crops might render it advisable to procure that article from the more distant provinces. But although it is capable of holding a prodigious quantity, yet it would not contain, it is said, more than one day's provision for the dense population of the pro-

vince. As the height and form of this building would have precluded the possibility of stowing away the grain from below, two spiral staircases were built round the exterior, in order that its destined contents might be poured in from above. A door was fixed at the bottom of this magazine, through which the store was intended to be conveyed away as required. This door was sagaciously made to open *inwards*, so that by no possible means, except such as are practised by burglars, could it be opened when the grain was therein deposited, in consequence of the "*pressure from within.*" In consideration of these circumstances, the building has obtained the familiar nickname of "The Company's Folly," though that our home authorities had anything to do with it, save in paying for it, deponent knoweth not.

Soon after breakfast a tremendous *bapree*, or clamour, arose in the veranda adjoining the room where we sat. The voice of my durzee was predominant. He was calling some unfor-

tunate fellow-descendant of Shem a “black rascal,” intentionally loud enough for my hearing. I therefore rose and went out to ascertain the cause. The natives have a strange fancy for making their mutually sable phizzes a subject of reproach against each other; in the presence of Europeans, without for a moment considering that the charge—“if *charge* it may be called which *charge* is none”—equally applies at home. Perchance they think it pleases or amuses their lords and masters, and thereby procures favour to themselves. Be that as it may, I found my sirdar bearer and durzee at high words with a table-cloth manufacturer from the village of Futwa, who was, in reality, a few shades fairer in hue than either of his maligners. •

Futwa is a village situated on the Ganges, a short distance below Patna. It is celebrated for the manufacture of table-cloths, napkins, towels, &c., all which commodities may be purchased in the neighbourhood at a remarkably cheap rate; and on this account my servants were bargaining

with the buniya, in order to lay in a sufficient stock of them for my up-country use. Tabic-napkins of the bird's-eye pattern were obtained at the close of the contention for two sicca rupees (about five shillings at the then rate of exchange) per dozen, and the other articles in like ratio.

Here I may mention an affair of rather a ludicrous nature, as it turned out, which had occurred at Dinapore about three weeks before our arrival there, and only became whispered into publicity at that time. It appears that a card-party had been formed by some of the non-commissioned officers, (against rule,) to which an English shopkeeper was invited. A quarrel arose between the latter and a corporal of the company, which was ultimately to be decided by appeal to the *duello*, in imitation of their superiors. A brother corporal befriended the *militaire*, and a sergeant very handsomely volunteered his services to their guest the civilian. This arrangement being duly effected, the party smuggled themselves out into the country. The

civil champion was furnished with a fowling-piece, the corporal with his own musket; and the order of battle was, that they should fire at the distance of sixty paces from each other. The first round was fired without producing the effect of either bloodshed or reconciliation, and a second was about to take place, when an object more terrible in their eyes than even the deadly weapons they employed, put the whole assembly, or I should rather say, the army portion of it, to a most hasty and ignominious flight. This object of terror was neither more nor less than the appearance of an officer on horseback just looming on the visible horizon—a sufficient matter of dread, there is no denying. Fortunately for the actors in the scene, the officer was merely taking an airing, and observed nothing of the proceedings; and it was not till some time after the occurrence, as I said before, that the affair became generally known.

There was one dark feature in this transaction, that had well nigh precluded all hope of pardon

and accommodation, when it came to light. This was, that the corporal, one of the principals, had wilfully made away with a ball-cartridge, the property of the Honourable East India Company. However, as some time had elapsed since the transaction, and as the parties had subsequently conducted themselves with great propriety, and also held a general good character, the business was passed over with a severe reprimand, and caution for the future; the chief delinquent being also mulcted to the amount of the misappropriated article's value from his pay, the same to be placed *to the credit of the general treasury.*

To the uninitiated reader the above finale may appear a caricature or a satire; but be it known, that in the case of a superior officer being shot on parade by a private, (and I regret to state that this has occurred more than once in India,) the law is, that the latter should be tried on two counts—viz. in the first place, for the mutiny and murder; and, secondly, for making away

with a ball-cartridge, the property of government. If found guilty of both, he receives two sentences—for the first crime “death,” for the second “stoppage from his pay to the amount of the value of the article misapplied.” Such is the custom of war in these cases.

The cholera raged very grievously at the time of which I now write. The British regiment stationed at Dinapore was losing, on an average, nine men daily, chiefly from the awful visitation of that still unaccounted-for disease. Death was indeed thinning the ranks more busily than on a field of battle; for there, though the slaughter is great, it is soon over; but the silent and increasing drainage of the cholera had for some time past reduced, and still was rapidly reducing, the regiment to a mere skeleton. The band had already lost four or five of its principal performers—whose places it would require much time to fill up—besides others of less note. The season was an unusual one, which may in part account for the exceeding virulence of the

distemper; little rain fell till the latter end of the month of August, and that little came principally in squalls, not by any means sufficient to subdue or reduce materially the temperature of the wind, which continued to blow *hot* till the close of that month.

Before we quitted Dinapore, we had reason to congratulate ourselves on having secured for our boats a snug harbourage in the nulla before mentioned; for on the very morning fixed for our departure, a hurricane came on, which continued for three days, making most distressing havoc amongst the craft that were moored in the open river.

In these tempests, after the wind has blown for some time, the waves of the river become very formidable, beating against the lea shore with great violence. In consequence; numbers of boats are staved and swamped, from being dashed by every wave against the bank, till wood and iron can stand it out no longer. The best preventive, if resorted to in time, is to lash

a number of bamboos together in the fashion of a rod. When a couple of these bundles are prepared, they are fixed at one extremity to the bank, and at the other to the boat, which is thrust out as *far to sea* as the bamboos will permit. These being attached to the vessel by ropes, yield to the action of the waves, and the boats are thus kept in sufficiently deep water to preserve them from being staved by the successive and heavy surges that would otherwise dash them against the beach. Many wrecks were made at this time, and the boats of the European detachment suffered so severely, that the commissariat department was called upon to replace by fresh craft the loss sustained by the party. This caused an additional delay of two or three days, after which time we took leave of our friends, and continued our voyage. We left Captain Dobbs almost restored to health.

CHAPTER .V.

WITH the exception of Larkins, all the members of our party were assembled as before. We were also reinforced by another budgerow, containing three young officers, proceeding to join regiments in the upper provinces; for at that period the number of vacancies in the army was great, and many were the boats employed in the conveyance of those who were to be wrought, by the hand of Time, into serviceable and efficient “ food for powder.” When any halt, therefore, was made by some one party at a station for a few days, others would during that

interval arrive, and most probably propose to join company; so it was in the present instance. Whether our social condition were or were not bettered by the addition, my reader will be qualified to decide, when made acquainted with the parties. o

The name of the first of our new travelling companions was Smith, John or Jack, *ad libitum*. Next came Jemmy Thomson. “The first he was an *Englishman*, the second was a Scot;” and it is a curious coincidence, very, that their names should correspond with those of thirty-five great heroes, who figured at the siege of Ismail; as satisfactorily shown by that veritable chronicler and historiographer, Byron, who thus registereth:

“ ‘Mongst them were several Englishmen of pith,
Sixteen called Thomson, and nineteen named Smith.’ ”

“ Jack Thomson and Bill Thomson—all the rest
Had been called ‘Jemmy,’ after the great bard;”

&c. &c. &c. My third hero of the budgerow was Simon Hoskin; but to what land he was

indebted for *his* birth, has never yet come to my knowledge. Certain it is, that the Ganges was perfectly secure from ignition through any agency of his.

Of Smith I have indeed little to say, and would fain forego the task altogether, could I, without impairing my narrative, as our companionship was short. He had been a spoilt child, wilful and wayward. Advice with him, if it had effect at all, only confirmed him in the counter-mode of proceeding to the one intended, were he previously wavering between two impulses. His natural disposition was perhaps good, at least he was good-tempered when pleased, a not altogether singular trait. He was *en route* to Meerut, to join a cavalry regiment.

Jemmy Thomson was a "canny Scot," and steady as old Time. Economical, though not inhospitable, he was well fitted to make his way in the world, and one of those who, you may almost calculate upon, are destined to retire, after the full period of their service to their

native land, with a comfortable sufficiency for the autumn and winter of their lives. I am much attached to the Scotch. Most of my best and kindest friends in India have been of that nation. I have almost invariably found them hospitable, often profuse ; and even in many instances, where the bump that manifests an economical propensity has been prominently developed, I have seen it exercised more in the way of self-denial than illiberality. All rules have exceptions ; and therefore this is not assumed to be an exception to all rules, but it is very nearly correct, so far as has fallen within my own ken.

As for Hoskin, he was a weak simpleton. I can compare his mind to nothing more suitable than a *correct* view of Leeds in its most unfavourable aspect, viz. a mass of thick and almost impenetrable smoke. Perhaps something in the semblance of an idea might here and there appear, as you may in the said view descri^y the dim shadowing of a steeple or a chimney,

without being able to trace the perfect form of it—all vague and undefinable. Hang the fellow! I never could have any patience with him. He afterwards fell into bad hands, and was led into mischief; for which, and for general incompetency, he was in the first place suspended from his functions by the Governor-General, and ultimately removed from the service by order of the Court of Directors.

He had been admitted to a share of the budgerow by Smith and Thomson, for the following reasons. The former had given his consent, because Hoskin yielded to his caprices on all occasions, and submitted to be ordered about somewhat in the way of an upper servant. Canny Jemmy Thomson had consented, because one-third of his expenses for the budgerow were thereby excinded; a matter of sufficient consideration with Jemmy to turn the scale in Hoskin's favour.

All these several points of character I discovered on acquaintance; but they are here pre-

sented in one view for the reader's convenience. In delineations of character, it would have been very gratifying to me to have interspersed occasionally some of those astonishing incarnations of perfection that are so plentiful in novels—but, woe is me! I have met with none such, and I have felt obliged to record as I have found. In the narrative, I have designcdly omitted all *personally* “descriptive,” and “size rolls,” as wholly irrelevant to my plan. What boots it whether my heroes and heroines are six feet four, or four feet six inches in height?—whether their eyes be black, brown, grey, or hazel? Is not the proverb sufficient? and doth it not confine the subject to this one simple test—manners? Manners, and they alone may, I think, be said to make the man.”

Having thus made a clean breast, as the saying is, by delivering myself of the above apophthegm, held by me as a very important maxim of faith—I can afford to admit that corporeal strength and sound health are, without doubt, eminently

useful to a military man, whose life is one of occasional great exertion. The most useful kind of strength, however, to him, is that of endurance—the stamina that will carry him through the fatigues of a prolonged campaign, without impairing his bodily capabilities. The physical force which is merely prodigious for some sudden effort, and then as suddenly sinks, is rarely called into action, particularly so far as officers are concerned. They are not often singly opposed to an enemy in conflict; and, as few of them know the “*conyngc arte of fencc,*” when they are so, their chance in general is small against the skill of a native warrior of India—a class of which each individual is more or less an excellent swordsman—unless a pistol decide the cause in their favour. A most invaluable partisan judge, by the way, is that same military authority, a pistol, in such ticklish times. On the same principle as the above, it is, I believe, generally admitted that a single trooper of British cavalry

would in almost all cases meet with an over-match in an irregular horse-soldier of India.

The irregular cavalry regiments of Colonels Skinner, C. B. and Gardner, which are armed and equipped in the Eastern fashion, but disciplined to act in a body according to British rule, have done surprising service in many of our wars against the Mahrattas, &c. &c. Their parade-exercise is a beautiful sight. Each individual with his horse can perform extraordinary feats ; feats that might be deservedly applauded by both Angelo and Ducrow.

At Dinapore I had received a packet of English letters from my family, and the renewal of our voyage gave me an undisturbed opportunity of answering them. Who that has been separated from home by one half or one third of the circumference of the round world, while wandering in far-distant lands by the bright light of a tropical moon, has not felt to his very heart's core the power and the spirit of Moore's beautiful address to that planet ?

" If such there breathe, go mark him well,
For him no minstrel raptures swell."

The following is the passage alluded to. I make no apology for quoting it. *

" Sweet Moon! If, like Crotona's* sage,
By any spell my hand might dare
To make thy dish its ample page,
And write my thoughts, my wishes there,
How many a friend whose careless eye
Now wanders o'er that starry sky
Should smile upon thy orb to meet
The recollection kind and sweet,
The reveries of fond regret,
The promise never to forget,
And all my heart and soul would send
To many a dear-loved, distant friend."

We were now under a fair start again, with cooler weather after the gale, and a brisk easterly wind to propel us along cheerily. The further account of our voyage to Cawnpore will be less detailed—the more prominent occurrences and events only being selected; while the remainder may lie in the dust, until rummaged out for inspection by the more inquisitive and curious.

* Pythagoras.

On the first morning we passed the mouth of the Sone (*Sone duriya*), literally Golden River, so called from small particles of that metal having been found in its channel, washed from the south-western hills, where it has its rise. Beautiful pebbles are picked up along the bed of this river, which are called Sone pebbles—they are of various colours, and admit of a high polish. On the second day we passed the village of Rivelgunj, which is situated at the confluence of the Gogra with the Ganges. The Gogra has its rise in the Himalaya mountains to the north-west, and is one of the largest rivers that unite with the Ganges. On the fifth day we arrived at Buxar, and had great difficulty in passing the Fort, which projects into the river; and as the channel is here somewhat confined, we found the current so strong, that we could with difficulty make headway against it inch by inch.

A decisive battle was fought at Buxar in 1764; and the victory was gained by Sir Hector (then Major) Munro, with a small body of

European and Native troops, over the united forces of Soojah Ood Dowlah, Nuwab Vizir of Oude, and Cossim Khan, Nuwab of Bengal. The Major's force consisted of only about seven thousand men, of whom less than one thousand were British. The Allies mustered about forty thousand. Sir Hector made them *put themselves* to flight, notwithstanding the immense numerical majority of six to one against him.

At Buxar and at Karuntadee, on the immediately opposite side of the river, are portions of the Honourable Company's magnificent Stud Establishment; a third division is at Ghazeepore, twenty-five miles higher up the river, and the remainder are at Poosa, in what are called the Central Provinces, and at Haupper in the North-western. Collectively, it is a most splendid establishment. It has been under the consideration of the Government to annihilate the Stud for economy's sake: at least, I have understood so. 'Twere a foul deed to do it.

I have been shown over the Buxar, Karun-

tadee, and Ghazeepore stations; and I can imagine no spectacle more delightful to the lovers of nature in the equine form. The stables are in vast ranges, kept in the finest order: and large areas of ground are enclosed, where hosts of young colts and fillies, classed according to their several ages, are allowed to gambol about at freedom up to a certain age. They are then stabled, and annual selections are made for the cavalry service by committees of qualified officers nominated for that purpose, the rejected cattle being sold privately at a fixed rate, or ultimately by auction to the highest bidder.

A little above Buxar, the Karamnasa, a small river, falls into the Ganges from the southward. This river is considered accursed by the Hindoos, and the very touch of its water is so defiling, that Gangetic ablutions must be undergone, and *dinners to Brahmins* given profusely, by the unfortunate wretch who has suffered pollution so dire, ere he can be accounted clean, or permitted to associate as usual with others of

his *caste*. The Government have now, I understand, erected a suspension bridge over the Karamnasa,—a most grateful boon to pilgrims and other Hindoos who are obliged to cross it. The natives on its banks are necessarily exempt from the general ban. The tradition which accounts for the aforesaid state of things is as follows:—Some impious king, many thousand years ago, was drowned near the source of the Karamnasa, ever since which time its waters have been held as accursed, until they become commingled with the sacred Ganges, when they are purified by the all-cleansing power of the latter;—no unapt type of the nature of our own holy religion.

On the second day from Buxar we arrived at Ghazepore, where we were very hospitably entertained for two days, by the officers of his Majesty's 24th regiment. Ghazepore is a great staple for rose-water, which for its excellence is highly celebrated.

My chum and I dined with our new ac-

quaintances, Smith, Thomson, and Co. on board their budgerow, on the day after we quitted Ghazeepore. Let it be known that it is necessary, when on the river during the rainy season, to dine early in the afternoon—for at night, when candles are lighted, troops of insects, such as green bugs, (to describe whose savour, Nick Bottom the weaver's word "*odious*," for "*odours*," is a very fit one,) white ants, which at this season take wings and fly, together with multitudinous other alated annoyances of the small kind, are attracted towards the light from the neighbouring swamps and jheels, and often render it much preferable to sit altogether in the dark, than be subjected to such detestable nuisances.

During the time of meals, it is customary for the cook-boat to be lashed alongside of the commodore, and thus they travel lovingly together, (I was about to observe, like man and wife; but as it is my aim to be critically correct, I shall say) like sweethearts, linked arm in arm.

When the meal is concluded, the smaller vessel (I here quit my metaphor) is cast off, to make its own way.

It was when things were in this latter state, then, (for nothing transpired during dinner, which was a good one, worthy of record,) that a new crotchet seemed to have taken possession of Smith's head. He was determined to spend the evening in fishing, "and try," he said, "bacon-fat as a bait." He had hitherto been an unsuccessful fisherman, (an uncommonly impatient one he certainly was,) but it is equally true that he had never before tried the fat of bacon.

No sooner had the thought struck him, than he determined to test the experiment.

"*Koee hy?*" Who's there? (calling for a servant)—"*Bakum* gosht kuhan hy?*"—Where's the bacon?

"*Bawurchee khanu ka thou pur, sahib.*"—In the cook-boat, sir.

"*Nou kuhgn hy?*"—Where is the boat?

* *Bakum*, corruption of bacon.

"*Peecharee, sahib, thoree door.*"—A little way astern, sir.

"Then *bolou, you soor.*"—Then call it, you pig.

I must again interrupt the narrative for a time, in order to observe, that the English, when discoursing with their native servants, rarely carry on the conversation without numerous interpolations of English words, by way of "aids," which are altogether superfluous, for the Hindoostance sense and sentence are complete without them.

Such supernumeraries as "well," "then,"—"well then," &c. (but particularly preceding an abusive epithet, the word "you,") are constantly intermingled with the Hindoostanee, and form an absurd compound, to which, however, the native seryants soon seem to get well enough accustomed. "You *soor,*" "you *gudha,*" "you *ooloo*"—i. e. you pig, you ass, you owl—*cum multis aliis*, unfit for the perusal of eyes polite, often determine an address to a domestic, even

when "master" is in one of his mildest moods. Nevertheless, custom is everything, and the natives take it calmly and as a matter of course, at a time when they would be startled by a blessing, were it given them. At least I think so—but I have never known it tried.

The fishing adventure at present under notice may appear very trivial, and unworthy of record; but I have stated before, and I now repeat for the last time, that the narrative portion of these chapters is designed chiefly as a vehicle for the readier conveyance and introduction of observations upon manners and customs in India, or, in other words, as a thread wherewith to bind together the flowers, or weeds if you will, that I have occasionally collected in that country. The present anecdote, trifling as it may appear in itself, has already furnished me with a considerable quantity of *pabulum* for comment, as the reader may have noticed.—

"—Trifles form the sum of human things," we have from good authority.

To proceed. The bait was procured, the tackle overhauled, and all preparations made for the evening's entertainment.

Evening came, and Smith, eager with hope, commenced his piscatorial task. I remained near him as a spectator, wifful to see the result of his experiment, by which I might "gain a wrinkle." Hoskin also stood by—for he was an ardent admirer and inseparable follower of Smith. The bait being thrown, it scarcely had reposed a quarter of a minute beneath the water than away it went at a deuce of a rate, float and all, to the end of the line; but when it came to that point, it checked suddenly, and the line became slack, yielding without opposition to Smith's draught on it—whereupon he was aware that the hook had been bitten off, and carried away in the jaws of some river-monster. He refitted with tolerable temper, as the circumstance showed, at least, that his bait was approved by some species of aquatic animal. Again he essayed, and a similar mischance befel

him ; but when it occurred for the third time, his wrath suddenly rose to 212° Fahrenheit. One hook only was left in his store ; it was a large one, with about a foot of wire attached to it. Once more did he essay, and once again was the bait seized with as little delay as before ; but now came a heavy strain on the rod, which bent alarmingly. For at least a minute the ensnared one held its own—it then began to yield, at first almost imperceptibly.

“ I have her ! ” exclaimed the delighted Smith exultingly. “ Here she comes—soho ! Gently !—gently ! O the ‘ bacon-fed knave ! ’ ”

“ Now, Smith, you have him, sure enough ! ” said Hoskin. “ I dare say it’s a *rooee*,* a yard long—how he pulls ! ”

“ ——— ! ” exclaimed Smith, as his prize became visible—“ it’s a turtle ! ” His rage was now at a *white heat*, for he became perfectly pale. He beckoned to his boat people to “ unhook the beast ; ” and they, at least, were re-

* *Rooee*, a very large fish of excellent quality.

joiced enough to be summoned to the task, for the Mahumedan *dandees* are fond of the river turtle as food.* Just, however, as they were about to ease the strain on the rod, by seizing hold of their destined victim, it had worked its teeth through the wire, and away it shot under the water again, with Smith's last hook deeply sunk, no doubt, in the flesh of its voracious maw.

"Poor fellow ! (I mean Smith.) It *was* a severe trial of temper, and *his* was none of the sweetest. To do him justice, however, I have seen better governed minds than his turned woefully awry by a less matter than the foregoing. It requires not great events, which rarely occur in any single life, to raise the mercury of passion.

At first Smith was silent: he then deliberately wound up his line on the reel—took his rod to pieces—the scene is vivid before me now—seized

* The English do not eat them, because they are foul feeders. Bishop Heber, however, not aware of the circumstance, eat them, and speaks of them as being very good.

a piece of brick that lay on the ground, to give weight to his intended despatch—secured all these things together with the end of the line—and then, swinging the whole round his head, hurled them into the stream with all his force. At the same time, he made a vow, accompanied by a terrible imprecation on himself, that he would never handle rod or line again so long as he lived. He never did.

CHAPTER VI.

IT was my wish and endeavour to complete the account of our voyage "to Cawnpore within the limits of the last chapter ; but the numerous important cities and towns situated on the Ganges that call for passing notice—together with "thick-coming fancies," conjured up on retracing spots rendered familiar by three several journeyings up and down that river (six times in all), have defeated my object by drawing out the narrative to an unpremeditated length.

We were now proceeding from Ghazeepore

towards the great city called by the English and Mahumedans Benares, but by the Hindoos Kassee (Magnificent). We passed the mouth of the Goomtee (*Anglicè*, Winding), so named from its mazy course, which comes from the Kemaon range of the Himalayas; and passing the cities of Lucknow and Juanpore, falls into the Ganges some thirteen or fourteen miles below Benares. I merely mention this river for the purpose of observing that since our departure from Boglipore we had noted that the tributary rivers of the Ganges flowed into it alternately from right to left; or, to be more definite, from the northward and westward on the one hand, and from the southward and westward on the other; each river pursuing an independent course of perhaps three hundred direct miles previous to its junction.

On our arrival at Benares, Hoskin was confined to his bed by the united influences of fever and ague. These wicked spirits, which hold their chief seat of power in swamps,

marshes, and jungles, he had contrived to attach to himself whilst visiting their head-quarters in pursuit of wild fowl. As evil springs from good, so was Hoskin's life afterwards preserved by this his near approach unto death.

At Benares we came to for three days, which time we spent at Secrole, the military cantonment, three miles from the city. We passed through the latter in palkees. The streets are villainously narrow, and are rife with beggars of every degree of filth, many of them naked and besmeared with cowdung. Dirty rascals !

This city may be called the great Hindoo University, and is by far the most holy city of India. It is sacred to Siva, the Destroyer, and the second person of the Hindoo Trinity. The first is Brahma, the Creator; and the third, Vishnu, the Preserver. The Hindoos teach that Kasee (Benares) is upheld by Siva on the points of his trident, apart and distinct from the rest of the earth. It abounds with Hindoo temples. The Jumu Musjid, or Great Mosque

of the Mahumedans, is, however, the most remarkable building. It is situated on the bank of the river. Two lofty *minars* (minarets) which rise from the main body, afford from their summits a very fine view of the city and surrounding country. The *ghauts* or landing-places are built chiefly of stone, and in some sort form a barrier against the encroachment of the river, the current of which is here both deep and strong on the city side, in consequence of its forming the *wheeling flank* of a very circular winding.

The following passage I copy from my journal, written on the spot in the beginning of 1833.

" 28th January, 1833.—The last rains seem to have made sad encroachments on this ancient city. The magnificent *ghadt*, with its *killises*,* is half washed away, and houses in the rear have given way to the extent of about forty yards inland. Nearly a hundred yards higher

* Killis, a turret or spire.

up the river, another handsome ghaut seems completely destroyed. Many hundreds of workmen are employed in banking up the ruined places; but their success is, I think, very doubtful, as the current in the rains where it washes the city flows with a swifter and deeper force than in almost any other part of the river that I recollect having seen."

On the fourteenth of January 1799, there was a dreadful massacre at Benares, of Mr. Cherry, the British resident or commissioner, and other English gentlemen, conducted under the *auspices* of Nizam Ali, the Ex-vizier of Oude.

The latter personage had dwelt at Benares since his deposition, subsisting on a handsome pension from our government; but on account of his intriguing disposition, and proximity to his former dominions, it was deemed expedient that he should reside in Calcutta. It was almost on the eve of his destined departure for the latter place that he called on Mr. Cherry by ap-

pointment at Secrole, three miles from the city. His followers were all armed; but that was customary, and unregarded at the time. It appears that he remonstrated in high terms against the hard lot about to be forced upon him; to which Mr. Cherry very mildly answered, that he was only an agent of the government, and had no discretionary power in the matter. Vizier Ali, unsatisfied, or, what is highly more probable, in pursuance of a premeditated plan, rose up and struck Mr. C. with his sword, which was a signal for his followers, and the unfortunate gentleman received his death-blow from a khunjur, or dagger, whilst attempting to escape through a window. The attendant ruffians also massacred Captain Conway and Mr. Evans, two gentlemen who were present. After this, they proceeded onwards, headed by their precious prince, to the house of a Mr. Davis. On their way they met two gentlemen, named Graham and Hill, whom they killed. At Mr. Davis's house

they shot the Sepoy sentry at the door, which circumstance gave the alarm. Mr. Davis immediately armed himself with a hog-spear, and conducted his wife and family to the top of the house. The staircase was most fortunately very narrow, and he defended that pass for nearly an hour and a half against his assailants, who could only ascend in single file ; he was then relieved by the approach of a troop of cavalry, after having slain three or four, and severely wounded others of the ruffians.

The protracted and noble defence of that gallant gentleman, by keeping the wretches so long at bay, was most probably the means of preserving the lives of several other persons, our countrymen, at Secrole. Nizam Ali escaped for the time, with most of his followers, to Azimgurh, and began to levy an army to oppose our troops ; but after holding out till the December following, he was given up to the British Government by a Rajah on whose protec-

tion he had thrown himself, transmitted to Calcutta, and confined there.

But enough of Benares;—so many accounts of that city, its acts and deeds, are extant, that I shall speed away from it to join my corps.

“ Thus far into the bowels of the land
Have we sailed on without impediment,”—

I may doubtless say, with great self-gratulation; but still our distance as yet is barely half accomplished, and it behoves us to move on therefore with the speed of steam. So off we go.

There is the cavalry cantonment of Sultanpur away on our starboard bow. ’Tis gone!—disappeared like a vision,

“ Or like the Borealis race,
That fit ere you can point their place.”

And see!—here is the Fort of Chunar on the rock to our left—Chunar, so celebrated for its

building stone, and its prepared smoking tobacco. Seventeen miles already from Benares. The rock with its fort hath glided past, and stands only as a wart on the horizon in our rear —and now comes the city or town of Mirzapoore rushing down upon us at a sweeping rate. We can only make a bow as it passes ! Its beautiful mosques and glittering fanes, extensive carpet manufactories, and fleets of cotton boats, are far away now in retrospective distance !—Is this a fortress that we see before us on the horizon right ahead, or is it an optical delusion ? It is indeed Allahabad !

And here we are at Allahabad, seventy-eight miles in a direct line from Benares, in less than five minutes. Glorious travelling indeed by steam—*upon paper!*

Allahabad (*the City of God*), so called by the Mahumedans, or Rrayag (*Junction*) by the Hindoos, stands at the confluence of the rivers Ganges and Jumna. But in the mythology of the latter people, a third river, subterranean,

named Sreswati, is fabled to unite with the others at this point. Until very lately, Government received considerable revenue from pilgrims who came to bathe at this sacred "meeting of the waters;" but within the last two or three years the tax has, I understand, been very properly remitted.

The Fort of Allahabad stands at this junction, one face of it having originally abutted on each river. The Jumna still washes a face of the said fort; but the Ganges is now removed from the walls by the interposition of a bed of low sand to a distance of two or three hundred yards. The current of the Jumna being swifter and clearer than that of its sister stream, may be traced after their union for a considerable distance ere they become lost in each other. The Fort is spacious, and contains some fine buildings, both ancient and modern. The gateways have much elegance combined with great strength. It is garrisoned by artillery, the infantry lines being about three miles distant.

Within the Fort is a subterranean excavation, concerning which various figments are in circulation amongst the natives, and are as variously believed by them. I was told it was the entrance to an underground passage to Delhi, (a distance of simply three hundred and ninety miles!) for the convenience of the imperial family in olden time. Our English traditions respecting the like communications between monasteries and nunneries,

"If ancient tales say true, nor wrong these holy folk,"
are hereby put to irredeemable shame, though I have at times thought some of *them* "passing strange." It is, I believe, the remains of an ancient Hindoo temple.

Within the main gateway there is recumbent a beautiful pillar—why it has not been set up, is a question with the government exchequer. It is composed of a single stone, and is in ~~length~~ forty-two and a half feet, with a diameter of three feet two inches at the base, and two

feet two inches at the apex. Some inscription is beautifully engraved upon it; but the characters are of so very ancient a date that they have until lately baffled all the attempts of European philologists and the most learned Natives of Benares to decipher them. This darkness has at last been dispelled by the perseverance of the Rev. Dr. Mill. Nevertheless, many of the original words have been worn away by time, and it was necessary to attempt to restore them by guess-work, in order to connect as well as possible, and give meaning to, the remaining unimpaired parts of sentences.

The pillar is called Bheem Singh's *Gada*, or Bheem Singh's Club. Another, the very counterpart of it, is erected without the walls of the city of Delhi, near the southern or *Delhi* gate, there called Sultan Feroz's *Lat,h,** or Column. This I have also seen. The tradition respecting the former one is, that Bheem Singh, a Hindoo

* *Lat,h*:—in this word the *h* is aspirated as a separate and independent letter after the *t*; so it is in the word *t,hug*, or strangler, and innumerable others.

giant and worthy, used it as a pestle where-withal to grind his *b,hung*,* some 1300 years B.C. For further particulars I beg leave to refer the curious reader to the numbers of the Asiatic Journal for February 1835, pp. 102 and 133, and for May of the same year, p. 55, where he will find some very interesting papers on this subject. I make one short extract, as it corroborates the above statement from my own journal.

"A curious fact was announced to the Society" (Asiatic) "by the secretary at the meeting of the 1st October; namely, the perfect identity of the inscriptions of the Lath of Feroz Shah at Delhi, Bhim Sen's Lath at Allahabad, and the column bearing the same name in Bettiah."

In consequence of the very commanding position of the Fort at Allahabad, the fortifications are kept in thorough repair, and the place itself is a great dépôt for military stores. A gun-

* *B,hung*,—an intoxicating drug prepared from the hemp plant.

powder manufactory was kept up at Poppamow, a short distance from the cantonments, on the Ganges; but, alas! the “piping times of peace,” and the economical policy of shaving a day below the skin, now-a-days in full force, have blown up the gunpowder trade altogether in this place.

I, for one, never gave *my* consent or sanction to the reduction of the army in India. When the provincial battalions were disbanded, a great number of trained soldiers went either into the service of Native chiefs, likely enough to serve against us, or turned their hands against all men,

“And in a narrower sphere, wild rapine’s path pursued.”

At Poppamow are three or four trees of immense size. The girth of the largest, which I measured, was upwards of forty feet. They are called by the natives Willatee Emlee, or Foreign Tamarind.

At Allahabad we separated from our friends

the Morlands, and Lake, who proceeded thence by land, whilst we continued our journey as usual.

One evening, as a small party of us were enjoying our vesper stroll, accompanied, according to custom, by a number of dogs of little inferior note to Fielding's immortal "Thunder and Plunder and Wonder and Blunder,"—

"Great heroes were they all,"—

we had an opportunity of witnessing an extraordinary encounter between them and a large cobra de capello, or hooded snake.

The ground we were traversing was swampy, with here and there growing upon it an herbageous plant called by the natives *mudar*, and I know no other name for it. It bears a purple flower in clusters; and a thick, milky, and very pungent sap exudes from it when a branch or a leaf is broken off.

Near the roots of many of these plants were

holes resembling rabbit-burrows. Suddenly one of the dogs (a spaniel) which had been hunting about at some distance in advance of us gave a yell which summoned the others to him, and we followed as fast as our bipedal powers would permit us. The dogs united in a general howl, and when we came up with them, we found them scratching almost madly in the neighbourhood of one of the above-mentioned holes, but at a very respectful distance from it, for from its interior issued an indescribable sound which might have appalled a lion. As near as I can convey the idea of it, it was a fierce hissing mingled with a growl. Conceiving that the tenant of this asylum might be a weasel or some animal of that tribe, we poked at the aperture with our sticks, and cheered the poor dogs on to an assault. We could not, however, with all our endeavours, induce our best dog, though a noted *scratcher*, to invade the sanctuary; on the contrary, it appeared to be his object to fill up the hole, by throwing the earth into it. He also

bit off every branch of the mudar plant, laying each cautiously over the same place. At this time, one of the party suggested that the occupant might be a snake ; whereupon we would have called off the dogs, but they were under the influence of a spell, and paid not the least attention to us. At length, to make a long story as short as with justice I can, an enormous cobra de capello burst forth, furiously enraged. On the first appearance of his head, the four-footed tribe retreated a few yards, then halted, turned, and held the foe at bay, whilst the rational portion of the party commended themselves to the protection of those locomotive engines so well spoken of in Hudibras, and so naturally referred to on such occasions. Our ignominious flight continued to the full distance of twenty paces, when we halted and faced about. We then witnessed a most extraordinary spectacle. In the centre of a large circle formed by the dogs, rose the snake, with hood distended, and about a yard of his body erect, grace-

fully curved like the neck of a swan. In this attitude he wheeled rapidly about, fixing his diamond-like eyes, quickly as light, on any antagonist, which, bolder than the rest, attempted to draw the circle closer around him. This war of "demonstrations" lasted for perhaps a quarter of an hour, the dogs barking furiously all the time, when one of them (the spaniel too) made a spring upon the reptile, when his head was partly turned in another direction; but he underrated the activity of his foe, and was bitten. A general attack now commenced, and the snake was soon torn to pieces. He died not unavenged, as Byron says. Two of the dogs received their death-wound, each bitten in the upper lip; viz. the spaniel before mentioned, and a valuable Scotch terrier. For about ten minutes, afterwards, their spirits appeared to be unnaturally excited; they then began to sicken and retch, though they were unable to vomit; violent convulsions and death soon succeeded. The spaniel, which was first bitten, died in about twenty

minutes, and the terrier half an hour after the infliction of the wound.

Eau de luce would have saved them, had we had it at hand. I have myself witnessed the cure of a man who was bitten by a very venomous snake : he was restored by a teaspoonful of *eau de luce*, given in half a wine-glass of water , and although he was in a state of insensibility, foaming at the mouth, and with his pulse apparently gone, yet in less than twenty minutes he became convalescent and able to walk stoutly Every European—man, woman, and child—at the place was furnished with a vial of *eau de luce* by the next evening.

The natives have an admirable plan of resorting to charms and *mantras** when one of their companions chances to be bitten by a snake, which they persevere in with exuberance of faith, till he dies : then, but not till then, should they happen to be near a British station, they

* Mantra—a charm, prayer, sentence or text from the Shastra or Vedas, &c. &c.

convey their dead friend to the doctor to be cured. I have seen this.

We now neared Cawnpore rapidly. One afternoon, when within two or three days' sail of it, we came to earlier than usual, on the representation of our boatmen that the bank for many miles ahead of us was *kuchar*,* and would consequently afford us no halting-place. Here we were informed, that there was on the opposite side of the river, about a mile inland, a large jheel swarming with wild fowl; a statement which seemed corroborated by the large flocks that we saw sailing like gigantic figures of 7 or recumbent Vs in every direction. But the weather was unsettled, and the temptation of too ordinary a kind to induce any of the party to cross over except Smith. Hoskin was out of the question, he being laid up with fever, and on his *beam-ends*, to use a sea-phrase. The former insisted on crossing over in the small

* Kuchar—High and loose perpendicular bank, constantly breaking piecemeal away.

cook-boat, in spite of the remonstrances of his nautical advisers, who pointed out symptoms of a probably rough night, and accordingly away he went, attended by two of his own servants and three boatmen.

It was about four o'clock when he left us, and for two hours the weather continued fine ; but at six o'clock a visible change came over the aspect of the sky, and the before still leaves of the trees began to rustle ominously. We became anxious to see the little vessel under returning sail; but it was half-past six before we perceived her to be in motion, and the wind was then fast freshening. By the time she had made half-way across, a squall of heavy driving rain came on, and hid her from our view. In about twenty minutes the clouds broke, and the sky became clear ; but not a vestige of the little boat was to be seen. Nothing met our anxious gaze but the cold muddy waves of the Ganges, which rolled away till lost in the deepening shades of evening. The boat had gone down,

and all on board perished, except one servant, who escaped almost miraculously, being carried along with the current against the branches of a partly sunken tree. On this he contrived to scramble and effect a sitting, till relieved from his perilous situation by a fisherman the next morning. Poor Smith's straw shooting-hat was picked up in a back eddy of the stream, near the place where he was lost, and brought in to Cawnpore by a native three days afterwards; but he was seen no more. The servant who escaped, when questioned how the accident occurred, said, that his master had just seized the helm from the Manjhee, whom he pushed away and called a fool, when the boat gave a kind of a leap, and immediately went down like a cannon ball. He recollects nothing further till he was brought into contact with the tree as before related, when he made a successful struggle for his life.

After two or three very narrow escapes from

being lost during the long voyage, we at length arrived at Cawnpore. And here, perhaps, it may be as well to mention a few of the annoyances that beset Gangetic travellers: amongst these, I^e think, green bugs have a bad pre-eminence. On coming to ⁱⁿ the evening, near a swampy shore, or a grass jungle, as must often be the case, no sooner are the candles lighted on board, than myriads of those insects, whose odour is—faugh! most *villanous*—troop in, and were it not for the glass shades, would immediately extinguish our lights. I["]have tried to exterminate them, by burning spirits in a brass basin. This vessel soon becomes filled with them, as they fly to the flame; but they are succeeded by such innumerable hosts from without, that ultimately it has been necessary to put out the lights altogether, to get free from these pestilences. Mosquitoes are another annoyance; but they abound everywhere. Besides these general disagreeables, old-built budgerows often

carry an internal dépôt of noisome companions ; to wit, cockroaches, ants, rats, scorpions, centipedes, and Co.—a firm too well established to fail, and in which there are no sleeping partners.

This reminds me, that we once tried the cruel experiment of testing whether a scorpion “girt with fire” would or would not sting itself to death. We placed one in a circle formed of burning charcoal, and the animal, after making various unsuccessful efforts to break bounds, suddenly stood still, stung itself in the middle of the back, and died immediately. We learnt this valuable secret from Lord Byron’s “ Giaour,” —which see, as the Encyclopedia says.

Alligators abound in every part of the river, chiefly the long-nosed tribe, called the *ghuriyal*, which live upon fish. I have occasionally seen one of these creatures come to the surface of the water, with a large reoo * caught transversely in his jaws, which he jerked to a great height

* Reoo, or Rooee, a large species of fish which grows to nearly the size of the cod.

by a motion of the neck. On its descent, head foremost, he again seized it, and by this method contrived to get it lengthwise into his throat. Then followed a crunch of the bones, and presto! the fish was gone.

CHAPTER VII.

CAWNPORE is the principal military station in the North-western provinces of British India. It was some years ago the head-quarters of the field army, but now simply holds control over a division. Its position is a very important one, being the main check over the opposite kingdom of Oude, and would be a ready rallying point in case of disturbances in that quarter..

The Native Town is insignificant, and only brought into name from the circumstance above mentioned. The cantonments are very extensive, the bungalows of the officers ranging along

the Ganges for a distance of about six miles. The stationary force consists (or did lately consist) of two troops of European horse artillery, three companies of European and seven of Native foot artillery, with a light field battery; one regiment of British light dragoons and two of Native cavalry, one British and three Native regiments of infantry.

I shall not allow my readers to run the risk of suffocation by a long detention at Cawnpore; for of all the dusty and disagreeable places in India, I hold it to be the chief. It is not, however, the less healthy on account of its dry heat; for a high temperature is by no means so inimical to the constitution unless combined with moisture, as is often supposed.—But to continue. The dust in dry weather is excessive, and stirred up with the lightest breeze: it is withal so subtle, that it penetrates into the houses when the doors are all closed, and renders every article of furniture a fair tablet for any inscription you may choose to trace upon it with your finger.

The houses are many of them commodious; but all the estates are surrounded by mud walls, so that when passing along the cantonment streets, these are the only objects that greet the vision on either hand, provided they can be seen through the dust before mentioned. •

O'Farrel and I had determined on proceeding thence to Agra by dak.* Here Speering left us for Delhi, and Milden suddenly departed for Lucknow, having obtained leave to witness the approaching coronation of the King of Oude.

We (*i. e.* O'Farrel and I) remained five days in Cawnpore, when, after despatching our baggage in hackries, we ourselves started for Agra one afternoon at the close of October.

It was with much regret that I had parted from Milden, who had been my constant companion since the commencement of my oriental

* *Dak.* Here applied to posting in palkees, with relays of bearers placed at the different chokees, or places of relief along the road, at an average distance of about eleven or twelve miles apart.

pilgrimage, and by his more fixed and steady habits had kept me free from a number of scrapes, for getting into which, I was endowed with a natural talent. But part we must, and part we did for a considerable length of time.

Off then Paddy and I started in our palkees, with each a party of ten bearers, and two mushalchees, or torch-bearers, and were trotted along at an average of four miles per hour, including stoppages. It is an agreeable mode of travelling, but, like all others, it becomes wearisome in time. The effect produced by the flambeaux at night, when passing through a wooded country, is exceedingly fine. We met with no adventures worthy of record in this our transit across the Doab.* We were occasionally detained in the night-time at the gates of walled towns, whilst the drowsy porter was aroused to give us admission; and our passage through the deserted streets was accompanied by the howl-

* *Doab.* Literally, *two waters.* The country lying between the Ganges and the Jumna is so called.

ings of the homeless pariah dogs, which sounded
dismally enough in our sleep-bedulled ears.

Paddy had long before become habituated to
the grunting of the bearers, and on this occasion
only alighted to walk at times, as indeed we both
did for the relief of our limbs.

I shall here relate a curious adventure, which
must, however, be introduced in the classical
style of story-telling.

“Once upon a time,” an officer was travelling
dak (post). When the recumbent position be-
came irksome to him, he alighted to walk; and
on one of these occasions he was attacked by a
bear at a little distance from his attendants.
Being armed only according to Nature’s provi-
sion, he was obliged to wrestle with his assailant.
During the struggle the bearers came up; but
instead of tendering their assistance to the
gentleman, they formed a circle round the con-
tending parties, like bold Britons at a dog-fight,
and expressed the interest they took in the con-
test by clapping of hands, and the following

encouraging cheers—"Wah, wah, sahib!" or "Wuh, wah, bhaloo!"* as the chance of victory fluctuated from one side to the other. The officer was fortunately a strong man, and after a long struggle came off triumphant. At the end of the stage, in order to reward the tender interest the bearers had taken in the preservation of his honour, he delivered them over to the Cutwal, the chief civil authority, who awarded to each of them an external application of bamboo, instructing at the same time the *executive* to call out during the administration, "Wah, wah, bans!" "Wah, wah, peeth!"†

After jogging on as previously described for two nights and the intermediate day, we arrived, as morning dawned, on the bank of the Jumna, opposite to the great city of Agra, when we

* "Wah, wah, sahib!"—“Wuh, wah, bhaloo!”—Well done, gentleman! Bravo, bear! or, Now, gentleman—now, bear! *ad lib.*

† "Wah, wah, bans!" "Wah, wah, peeth!"—Bravo, bamboo! Bravo, back!

were greeted with the booming sound of the morning-gun, that never-failing disturber of rest and summoner to the duties of the day. I have heard it remarked that Sundays are well-nigh forgotten in India by the military: are they, during the drilling months? We crossed the river, and proceeding onwards, entered the cantonments as the sun rose. But at this early hour the whole military world was astir, and the shrill calls from the bugles, where the regiments were at exercise, sounded cheerily on the sharp air of the morning. It was quite exhilarating, and wholly dispelled the languid sensations engendered by travelling.

As we ascertained that the Morlands had arrived some days before us, we made for their bungalow, where we impatiently enough awaited their return from parade. We certainly thought that the duties were inordinately long that morning, it being near nine o'clock when they made their appearance; but the troops had already commenced their active preparations, for the

annual visit of the Reviewing-general, a period altogether unfavourable to the indulgence of indolent habits.

I may pass over our warm greeting, as also the account of my subsequent visits of form and introduction to my brother officers, &c. &c. Some notice, however, ought in decency to be taken of my new commandant, which shall therefore be done.

Lieutenant-colonel Askern was the complete antithesis of my late commander, Colonel Cooly, being a man of polite and gentlemanly bearing. So far from feeling an anxiety to escape from his presence on the first occasion of my waiting upon him, I felt some regret when etiquette required that I should cut short the ceremonial visit. He welcomed me to the regiment which he commanded in the most courteous manner, and before I quitted him observed that he should not expect to see me on parade for two or three days, until I felt myself a little settled and acquainted with "my brother officers." As former

experience had not taught me to expect this civility, I was perfectly delighted with my new superior, and left him with a rejoicing heart. He invited me to dine with him the next day, observing that he would not ask me for the evening of my arrival, as I might be anxious to receive my welcome from my future comrades at the mess.

First impressions are strangely powerful. Colonel Askern was by no means a favourite with the corps, his open behaviour being considered by those who had longest known him as more superficial than sincere; yet no time nor circumstance ever obliterated the feeling of good will towards him that was impressed upon me during that first visit. Now, as to Colonel Cooly, I invariably steered clear of him, except on matters of duty, from the time of my introduction till I finally left him. Colonel Askern was a married man, but I did not then see his lady.

The adjutant, Lieutenant Jones, appeared to be what is familiarly termed "a jolly good

fellow;" with which notice I dismiss him for the present.

As O'Farrel and I had become so much accustomed to each other's society, we agreed to rent a bungalow between us, which was accordingly done the next day; and on the following morning we were each on our respective parade-grounds a little after day-break.

It must not be supposed that we allowed many days to elapse before we sallied forth upon a regular survey of this most interesting place. Our first visit was to the Taje Muhal, a rouzu, or mausoleum, erected by the Emperor Shah Juhan to the memory of his wife, Moomtazu Zumanee (Exalted of the Age), and not, as is sometimes erroneously stated, to Noor Juhan (Light of the World), who was the mother of that monarch, and favourite sultana of Juhangeer, his father. Moomtazu Zumanee was the daughter of Yusuf Jah, the Vizier of the Emperor Juhangeer, and was married to the Prince

Sultan Kurrom, who afterwards succeeded to the empire under the name of Shah Juhan (King of the World); it being a custom with Eastern princes to change their names on ascending the musnud, or throne.—But to return to the Taje itself.

Would it were mine to do even a tenth part of justice to that most magnificent edifice! I have visited it day by day, and at almost all hours, and still, as the Persian song says, it was “Tazu bu tazu, nou bu nou,”—ever fresh and ever new. I am however, I feel, quite unequal to the attempt, and therefore in lieu of it will give an extract, made some sixteen years ago, from Buckingham’s “Calcutta Journal,” and which I still fortunately possess. I am the better contented to let my own notices of that beautiful structure give place to those of the unknown writer of the following passages, inasmuch as they perfectly harmonise with my own written memoranda made on the spot, and, moreover,

appear evidently to have been penned by the hand of a skilful connoisseur, if not of an engineer officer or professional architect.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TAJE MUHAL, AT AGRA.

[From the "Calcutta Journal."]

" Having passed through a large square court some hundred yards in extent, you enter a magnificent gate of red stone by a room above forty feet square ; whence descending into a delightful garden of great extent, the splendid edifice called the Taje Muhal bursts upon the view at the extent of a long avenue of luxuriant trees.* The whole of this rich edifice is of white marble, rising from a noble base of the same materials above a hundred† yards square : this base or terrace is elevated more than twenty feet above the level of the garden, which gives the building a full and fine relief, and greatly con-

* Cypress, orange, and various other trees of larger growth, such as mango, &c.—CADET.

† Three hundred and sixty feet.—DITTO.

tributes to the grandeur of its appearance. From each angle of this extensive terrace rises a beautiful white marble minaret of four stories, each having a neat balcony, and ending in a fine pavilion, crowned by a dome, whose height from the garden is about one hundred and fifty feet: that of the grand dome of the Taje is two hundred feet. In the four great faces of this edifice, a magnificent arch rises to the height of sixty-five feet, above which the wall is raised considerably to hide the shaft of the dome; in the four less sides, formed by cutting off the angles of the square, a double range of arches rises to the top; but here, instead of raising the wall, whose uniformity would thus destroy its beauty, a small pavilion, crowned by a dome, is raised at each great angle of the building, and rising to the spring of the great dome, fills up the hollow bosom of the shaft, and thus produces the desired effect. The advantage of raising the shaft so high, appears to be the surprising light effect it gives to the whole building, which

is more apparent the further you recede from it, and particularly when contrasted with the buildings on either side, where domes not possessing this advantage seem in close adhesion to the building from their very spring. These buildings consist of two large edifices of equal dimensions,—the one a mosque, the other a Jumaut Khan, or place of assembly before and after prayer. Each building is supported in front by a grand arcade, of which the central arch is near sixty feet high: they are open on three sides—the mosque, as usual, being closed on the Mecca side, which they always face at prayer. The whole building covers an extent of ground near seventy yards in length and thirty in breadth, and rises to the height of eighty feet, all of red stone, crowned by three domes of white marble. They are at the distance of one hundred yards on either side, and are erected on a base nearly twenty feet lower than the Taje. An octagon building of three stories rises at each angle of the garden, affording to visitors excellent accommodation.

" The garden is in a happy style, with broad walks, gay parterres, numerous fountains, and a charming white marble reservoir in the centre, which is constantly kept full. The outside of the Taje is highly ornamented with Arabic inscriptions in large black marble letters round the doors and arches, and with flowers composed of various-coloured stones inserted in the white ground of the building: the numerous shades of these rich flowers are so elegantly blended, that the strictest eye of scrutiny cannot possibly discover the points of union in any part. Yet it is asserted that, with the aid of a microscope, seventy different pieces have clearly been distinguished in one small flower within the Taje. The plan appears to be a central octagonal room about sixty feet diameter, having a suite of rooms all round to the number of eight, only one of which has a direct communication with the central apartment, the doors of the others being filled up with open lattice marble-work.

" These doors rise in an elliptical arch to the

height of eighteen feet, above which are eight large elliptical windows, with the intervention of a cornice, and an Arabic inscription in black marble characters that surrounds the room. Around each door also there is a beautiful inscription descending to the floor. The tombs of Shah Juhān and his consort Moomtazu Zumanee stand in the middle of the room, surrounded by a marble railing (or screen) near nine feet high, of exquisite beauty. To say that these tombs are of the most lovely white marble, is but slight praise, whence marble, and that of the finest kind, is the most vulgar article of which they are composed. To give an adequate idea of this paragon of beauty, is beyond my limited powers. Whether we regard the beauty of the various inscriptions, the delicacy of the luxuriant bouquets of flowers rising in bold relief from the white marble vases that adorn the walls, or contemplate the rich glare of brilliancy, the happy effect exhibited by the fine gems that enter into the composition of the flowers and other ornaments that decorate

the tombs, the exquisite marble, &c. &c., we are equally left in astonishment with the dignity that planned and the merit that executed so difficult a task." &c. &c.

I may here remark, that notwithstanding the *immensity* of the above undertaking, the original design was not half completed; for a second building, an exact counterpart of the one above described, was to have been erected on the opposite bank of the Jumna, and the two connected by a bridge of the same material, viz. white marble. The foundation was laid, but Shah Juhan died, and his successor Aurungzebe did not carry out the project.

The stones used in the Mosaic of the Taje Muhal, according to the late W. H. Voysey, surgeon and geologist, attached to the Trigonometrical Survey of India, are—1. Lapis lazuli.—2. Jasper.—3. Heliotrope.—4. Calcedonic agate. 5. Calcedony.—6. Cornelian.—7. Sard.—8. Plasma or quartz, and chloride.—9. Yellow and

striped marble.—10. Clay.—11. Nephrite.—12. Shells, limestone, yellow and variegated.

I believe I have now furnished as fair an account of "the Taje" as words will reasonably admit of; but I must confess that the perusal of it is to me very tame, after so intimate an acquaintance with the original as it has been my good fortune to have. Enough, however, for the present, of the subject, over which I could fondly linger through several chapters were it expedient to do so.

A circumstance occurred at this time at Agra, which, as it tends to show the lamentable state of superstition that pervades the minds of the Hindoos, its relation may not be unacceptable.

A gentleman who had purchased an estate the grounds of which he was desirous of laying out tastefully, wished for the removal of a neighbouring hut, the property of a native, which stood a grievous obstacle to his plan. Money was offered for the purchase of it to an amount much greater than its real value; but as the place was an heir-loom, all proposals for its

alienation were rejected. A servant of the gentleman's, a crafty rogue, said that with his master's permission he could readily obtain the end desired. His plan, upon communication, was approved of, and the scapegrace carried it into effect as follows.

He procured an earthen vessel, which he filled with ghee (clarified butter), oil, and various other articles, some of a mephitic quality. In the middle he put a cotton wick, and at the dusk of evening this savoury *compost* was placed on the chubotra* in front of the hut, and lighted. The house stood by a thoroughfare. Not a single native who approached the spot in order to pass by, but either returned with "fear-winged feet," or made a considerable detour to avoid the consequences of so malignant a piece of jadoo † as the one exhibited to his astonished

* *Chubotra*. In this instance, a small space at the entrance of the house, raised a few inches, and beaten hard and smooth.

† *Jadoo*. Magic.

and alarmed optics. On the succeeding morning the house was found to have been deserted overnight; and the premises might thenceforth have been obtained upon any terms, though no farther advantage was taken of the circumstance than to make the purchase at a fair value.

The above story reminds me of a trick of my own that I once practised upon a Mahummedan moonshee, or teacher of languages; for these geniuses are as superstitious every whit as the Hindoos.

In one of my smaller rooms at Agra I had a circular ventilator, which assisted the current of air very materially. I accidentally discovered that in certain directions of the wind, on opening a door at the opposite extremity of the house, within sight of the said room, through an intervening one, the motion would cease, and on closing it again, recommence.

I conducted the learned gentleman into the ventilated apartment, and having stationed a confederate (neither more nor less than Paddy

himself) at the before-mentioned door, I told the moonshee that I could cause the ventilator to stop or to go by raising or lowering my hand. He thought I joked, but I put it to the proof; and, as a matter of course, my signals were responded to.

At first he looked upon the occurrence as accidental, and exclaimed,

“ *Wah, wah, sahib! — khookh bukht—ittifak moohurrur.*”

“ Capital, sir—very fortunate—accidental, certainly.”

But when the game had been carried on successfully beyond the probability of mere accident, his exclamations assumed a more dubious tone.

“ *Akbar!*” (Wonderful!) gradually dropped into, “ *Sahib, yih jadoo hy!*” (Sir, this is magic!) “ *Accha nuheen, sahib!*” (Not good, sir!) “ *Shytan ka kam—ap mokoof kurdeejee!*” (Devil’s work,—pray stop, sir.)

The poor moonshee was in fact seriously alarmed; and although I explained to him the

simple contrivance, I am certain that he considered me as *no cannie* for some time after. On this occasion, however, he contented himself by observing, “*Sahib logue sub cheez jante*” (Gentlemen know everything.)

CHAPTER VIII.

A FEW days after my arrival at Agra, I received a letter from Milden of which the following is a transcript. The reader must be informed, that the province of Oude, governed by the Nuwab Vizier, was (previous to the coronation of which Milden gives an account, when it became an independent kingdom) merely a Satrapee, more nominal however than real, under the Emperor of Delhi.

“ *Lucknow.*

“ MY DEAR THORNEL,

My departure from Cawnpore was so hasty a one, that I do not bear in mind whether

or not I told you that my leave of absence, so immediately after joining the regiment, was not asked for by me, but offered by the Major commanding, after that two or three officers, who might have come had they chosen, had exclaimed against the trouble of moving for any 'such nonsense' as to see the coronation of the King of Oude. It was very kindly done of the Major; the spectacle was one of great splendour, and ought not to have been lost for the mere indulgence of indolence. I luckily arrived in good time; and another piece of good fortune—which, like bad, appears not to come in singlets—was, that I obtained permission to fall in with one of the battalions appointed for duty.

" At three o'clock on the morning of the 9th, we marched from cantonments, and a little before daybreak took up our stations; one battalion inside the palace-yard, along the edge of a beautiful artificial basin; the other, with which I was, outside the wall. A little after we arrived, the treatmen of the city began to crowd to-

wards the palace, in order to join a procession to the principal mosque at daybreak, where the Nuwab was going to pray. Each of these grantees was attended according to his rank, some by a hundred, some fifty, some thirty men, with spears, who ran before their state palkees ; then came all the Nuwab's elephants, for the most part covered with cloth of gold ; after these his camels, each mounted by a Suwar ;* next, his led-horses, beautifully caparisoned ; then his mounted attendants ; and lastly, his fighting rams, deer, &c. &c. These continued passing till after sunrise, when the grand procession started. There were upwards of a thousand elephants—the one on which the Nuwab sat was said to have about him in mere hangings to the howdah† to the value of two lakhs of rupees (£20,000) ; three thousand camels—state palkees, and barbed horses in hosts.

“ After *divine service*, the party returned to breakfast in the palace, where there was a most

* Suwar, a rider.

† Howdah—The seat fixed on an elephant.

splendid *set-out* in the English style. We were kept standing in the scorching sun, until the Resident was prepared to salute the Nuwab as he passed. He (the Resident) and General Marshall, who came from Cawnpore for the occasion, went together in their state palkees, with hundreds of attendants.

"The people in Oude all carry swords by their sides,* and are the most impudent fellows in the world ; and, in short, they were so impertinent that day, that they came between the officers and Sipahees when the ranks were at open order. At length, one of the Nuwab's own Sipahees came between the officer commanding the company that I was with *pro tem.* and his men at a moment when the commanding officer's attention was turned in another direction. This was a moment not to be lost, and accordingly the fellow received such a salute *peecharee* (behind) as caused him to mutter some threats, as he slowly and wrathfully gave way.

* So do all the Upper Provinces men.

The Subahdar* of the company overhearing him, greeted him with an admonition on the *cocca-nut*, as you call it, that forthwith levelled his dignity with the dust, and finding that buffets fast and frequent were likely to be his portion, he *put himself* to ignominious flight, to the great amusement of our men, who grinned applause, and, I verily believe, were more pleased with this little adventure than with all the grand sights of the day. When the Resident had passed, we went to breakfast. I shall not attempt to describe the numerous objects that now attracted our attention : saloons, open galleries, artificial basins—bands of European and Native musicians, blowing with might and main all together, &c. &c.

“As we were too late to obtain places in the same verandah with the Nuwab, we breakfasted in another apartment. We then prepared for the coronation procession, which set out in a little while for the Divan or Durbar.†

* Native Captain.

† Place where the Court is held.

"The Tonjon,* in which the Nuwab sat, was worth several lakhs † of rupees. As for himself and the heir apparent, they were so covered with jewels as to be well-nigh unable to move. The Nuwab was conducted to the musnud (throne) by the Resident and General Marshall ; he then retired into a back apartment to pray. Whilst he was absent, we were formed in two lines facing each other ; all the great Natives and the Resident, with the heir apparent, on one side, and the European officers on the other. This street is what is called the Presence. When he re-emerged from behind the curtain, a pundit read a long speech to him ; after which the crown (value thirty lakhs of rupees) was put on his head, and his bands struck up 'God save the King,' and a fire opened from all the guns on the ramparts, and from our lines : rockets were sent up, and most extravagant noises made. As soon as he had received the crown, he retired and sat down on

* Chair with a hood, carried like a palkee, in which the person conveyed sits upright.

† Lakh, 100,000.

the throne, (value forty lakhs,) when a number of Nach girls, or slaves, (I don't know which,) commenced singing in his praise. They were ranged on each side the lower end of the room, and were elegantly attired. After the KING had sat some time, with evident anxiety and alarm on his brow—for he has many enemies in the city, friends of the Great Mogul of Delhi, and who, were it not for the protection of our Government, would have his head off in a *jiffy*—he began to distribute places and titles to his great men : and here it was observable that the fattest men got the best places, and I do not recollect seeing any one under twenty stone weight get anything. During the whole time he was on the musnud, his attendants were sprinkling him with what we took to be ottar ;* but one of the officers, going nearer, discovered that they were pearls and precious stones. He held out his hand, and caught a few pearls, to the value of about three hundred rupees, which he gave to a lady

* Arabic, Utr—of roses.

who stood behind him. Only that we had a certain dignity and gravity of countenance to maintain, besides a fixed station, we should have been glad enough to join in the scramble. The carpet of the Durbar was of the finest scarlet cloth—a coat from it would have been no bad thing. After the conclusion of this part of the ceremony, “we were had,” (as Bunyan says,) into another quarter of the palace, to receive favours: large collars of silver lace were distributed by the heir apparent: thence to fire three volleys, and home. The Resident gave a grand dinner in the evening, much to the damage of heads the next morning.

“ That afternoon two of the royal Hurkarus presented me, at the house where I was accommodated by an officer, with shawls to the value of four hundred rupees; and the like compliment was paid to all the officers. The ladies had each a string of pearls presented to her. The King is extremely fond of the English; he is a sad sot, and gets drunk daily with cherry brandy.

"This coronation affair has taken up so much space and time, that I shall reserve any other communications I may have to make for some future opportunity. Love to Paddy, who will, I dare say, see this letter from

Yours, &c. &c.

"FRED. MILDEN."

Meantime at Agra a new circle of acquaintances was rapidly enlarging around me. The first I shall present is Lieutenant Scarsdale of the —th Regiment, for we were much together till he got married, and always remained on good terms afterwards. Our intimacy commenced very soon after my arrival, for he seemed to have taken a first-sight partiality for me; so much so, indeed, that Paddy said, "After a fortnight's acquaintance with Thornel, Scarsdale was never absent from the house for a *whole consecutive day* together." However, he had a very pardonable motive:

The whole neighbourhood of Agra, civil, mi-

litary, and commercial, were, at the period which I commemorate, supposed to be in profound ignorance that a matrimonial engagement had been entered upon between the said Thomas Scarsdale and a Miss Maria Muller; although, indeed, whispers had circulated pretty freely to that effect—for what indeed ever escaped observation at Agra, good, bad, or indifferent? Nay, I have even heard that something very improper, and for which there was not even the shadow of a shade of foundation, respecting this affair, was buzzed about at a station fourteen hundred miles from Agra, on the authority of a letter from a lady at that place.

Now, it so happened that Mr. Scarsdale had been for some time in search of a friend into whose sympathising breast he could pour the whole *bore** of his feelings. In his own corps he could select none: whether they were too quizzical, or he too distrustful, I cannot say. He was a good-tempered, weak young man.

* High, swift-rushing tide in the Ganges.

Mr. Muller, the young lady's father, was an indigo planter; a comprehensive genus, that ranges from the accomplished gentleman to the uncouth countryman. The generic feature is hospitality. Their dwellings, which are sprinkled up and down throughout the country, are really oases to travellers, who are always made welcome while they choose to halt, and afterwards start again on their way, rejoicing in an abundant supply, for the next three or four stages, of fresh bread, butter, and vegetables.

Mrs. Muller was a middle-aged young lady of fifty, of *purlite* breeding, and very disdainful of anything *low*.

Miss Maria, our present heroine, was the sole daughter of the above Mr. Abraham and Mrs. Janet Muller. The fee-simple, however, of seven promising sons constituted, together with Maria, a sufficiently large progeny, and the parents were contented. The maiden had been educated by her mamma at home, that is to say, chiefly at the indigo factory in one of the dis-

tricts, and had been blessed with no early playmates or companions, other than her brothers. What, then, if she were somewhat hoydenish? Is it not more a matter for grief than astonishment? She had seen her seventeenth *hot-winds*, for I cannot say summer, and was more blooming and healthful than is at all customary or fashionable in India.

Having been invited, through the medium of Scarsdale, to dine with this family, we proceeded together to keep the appointment. I was now about to be introduced to the unsophisticated Maria. Had I felt any previous embarrassment, it was at once and for ever put to flight immediately after her appearance. She was not in the room when I entered; but on her coming in, shortly afterwards, Scarsdale said, "Maria, my love, this is my friend Thornel." The young lady, very unaffectedly, certainly, put out her hand in the frankest manner, and shook mine as if we had been acquainted for half a century, at the same time saying, "Very

glad to see you, Mr. Thorne! Tom's told me all about you."

"Indeed, Miss Muller," I replied, "I feel much indebted to him; for I am sure, from your kind reception, he has attempted to make no evil impressions respecting me."

"La! Mr. Thorne, evil impressions! He thinks everything good of you, and talks all kind of flummery about you. You need not be afraid of him."

"I rejoice in his friendship," I answered; "and more particularly as it opens so agreeable a pathway to my better acquaintance with yourself, Miss Muller. It is quite delightful to become, as it were, intimate at once, without undergoing the ordinary martyrdom of reserve in the first instance."

"Oh! *Mariar*'s always the same," exclaimed Mrs. Muller: "everybody feels quite easy in her company at the first go-off; and that shows the real lady to my thinking, whatever folks may

say. I brought her up myself, and I always taught her that *hawter** was *low* and vulgar."

My attention was now again attracted to the meek Maria, by hearing the expression "*Jao, you soor!*" "*Get away, (you) pig!*" escape from her lips. This rhetorical gem was presented to a servant who had reported to her, it would seem, something not altogether agreeable.

Scarsdale was delighted at this further development of ease and freedom in the character of his Maria, and laughed very loudly, looking to me at the same time with an air of gratified pride, as much as to say, "Have I not lit upon a treasure?" As the whole family party joined in the merriment, I also chimed in; but no one laughed louder or longer than the "treasure" herself.

The dinner was a three-o'clock one, and passed off tolerably well *considering*. A visit to the Taje was then proposed: Scarsdale offered to

* Probably *hauteur*.

take Maria in his buggy, and the amiable girl acquiesced with a slap on the back and "Come along, Tom,—I'm your man!" which drew another grin of delight from Thomas.

It was the month of December, and the orange trees in the Taje Gardens were loaded with ripe fruit. Being the property of Government, we had the full liberty to make free with them,—of course under honourable trust to "pocket none."

The consumption by visitors, after all, compared with the supply, is very trifling. It is delightful to saunter along these well-shaded walks on a sunny day in December, chatting socially, and plucking occasionally the oranges that invitingly hang like golden balls within easy reach. I aver that Maria was not backward on the occasion ; and her enjoyment seemed more of the substantial than the poetical kind.

On the afternoon in question, we sought not the shade, for the time was near sunset (five o'clock) and the temperature approaching to

cold. As it was the period, however, of the full moon, we tarried for her rising. Our patience was not long tasked; and amply was it repaid when, after a while, she arose in a full bright splendour behind the Taje Muhal, and, as by a spell, exhibited the light and airy outline of that most beautiful of all buildings with its minarets on the tablet of the clear blue sky—the edges rendered more fairy-like and silvery from contrasting with the stately mass of the mausoleum itself in shadow. This again was relieved by the still darker shade of the tall cypresses that form the central avenue leading thereunto. The whole was a picture of exquisite beauty.

Oh! could I then have called around me, for one short hour, those dear but distant friends from whom I was separated for an indefinite term of years, how often would Fancy have afterwards reproduced the scene in all the vividness of reality, when summoned by the power of Memory!

I have anticipated ; for previously to the last-mentioned occurrence Paddy and I had visited the Fort of Agra, kindly *ciceroned* by an engineer officer.

Here we trod with booted and unhallowed feet over the ruins of ancient palaces, still grand amidst desolation, and which must have been extremely magnificent in the days of their glory. One room remains perfect, viz. the Looking-glass Room, which is studded with small convex mirrors of the size of watch-glasses, so multitudinous that I myself appeared, *upon reflection*, like a whole miniature Fountains in their day played in this place ; and behind them were placed coloured lamps, in niches that still remain in the wall.. .

There is, on a terrace above, an immense slab of black slate, polished like marble, which was placed there by Prince Selim (afterwards Juhangeer).

It was split by lightning (as it is now seen) in one of the succeeding reigns, from which time

the decline of the Mogul Empire is dated. This circumstance is said to have been prophesied. The palace was of marble, adorned with flowers of various-coloured stones; others are cut out in bass relief from the marble. Round the outer wall is a border of flowers, &c. &c. in alto relieve, chiselled likewise from the marble. The ancient Durbar, or Hall of Audience, is very spacious; it is now the Magazine.

The Motee Musjid, or Pearl Mosque, is the most perfect building in the Fort. It appears quite new, although built in the reign of Shah Juhun, in the seyenteenth century. It is composed entirely of white marble, possessing a large court paved with the same material, having a basin of water in the centre. The whole forms a square of one hundred and eighty yards each side.

The pinnacles of the domes are gilt, and the whole structure is too dazzling to look on in the sunshine.

When Agra was captured; a large gun, amongst

other "plunder," fell into our hands. It now lies under the wall of the Fort by the river-side. I forget the dimensions of it; but I perfectly recollect that Paddy and I were both inside of it at the same time, having crept there on our hands and knees, Paddy first. Government made an attempt to remove it by boat to Calcutta, as a trophy; but it broke down its conveyance over the spot where it now lies, and no endeavour has since been made to remove it.

The walls of the Fort are of red sandstone, very high, and quite equal to have set at defiance any Native force existing at the time of its erection; but it could now stand no regular siege. It has no scientifically constructed parapets to defend its garrison; and the castellated walls which formerly were amply sufficient for that purpose, would probably cause more destruction by their splinters than might very likely happen were the enemy's shot to have a clear course. The ditch is of great depth, and the defences

are double. The appearance altogether is noble and commanding.

About thirty miles to the westward of Agra, stands the celebrated Fort of Bhurtpore, which in the year 1805 resisted four successive storms of the British army under Lord Lake ; owing, indeed, in a great measure, to many disadvantageous circumstances, by which his extraordinary efforts were crippled.

' Let justice, however, be done to the garrison, which behaved with the greatest gallantry.

In 1826 it fell before our arms, and a curious anecdote is related concerning that event. It is said that the natives had an ancient prophecy to the effect that Bhurtpore would never fall until assaulted by a crocodile (*Koomheer*)—they therefore believed it to be impregnable against all human efforts ; but after its capture they very ingeniously discovered that the augury had been figuratively, if not literally fulfilled, for that Lord *Combermere*, whose name is by them cor-

ruptly pronounced *Koomheer*, was the identical crocodile bespoken by the wise men of old.— His Lordship takes his Viscount's title from Bhurtpore.

CHAPTER IX.

TIME travelled on with more than railroad speed. Indeed, he makes a point of doing so during the cold-weather months in India, which ever pass away too swiftly. The day of the grand review arrived, and all the troops were assembled at early dawn one beautiful morning in January. The manœuvres were well selected, and the evolutions, "marchings and counter-marchings," performed in good and soldier-like style.

Our gravity was considerably disconcerted

at one period of the performance by the following ludicrous occurrence :—

A certain simpleton had attached himself to one of the Native battalions stationed at Agra, and was much favoured by the Sipahecs ; for, happily for themselves, idiots are held in the East as being under the especial protection of the Deity. The ruling passion or folly of this man was to imitate the soldiers in the performance of their parade duties ; and whenever this particular battalion or any portion of it was out at exercise, he was aye to be seen at the distance of about a hundred yards on the proper left of the line, fantastically dressed, and, in lieu of a musket, armed with a bamboo of the same length. He caught up the words of command as they were given on the parade, and repeated them aloud, though in a wretchedly mutilated form for his own especial use, at the same time imitating with monkey-like accuracy the corresponding motions as he saw them. When the line advanced, he moved along with

it, always keeping his distance, and the poor fellow was doubtless greater in his own eyes than the more gifted of his species whose actions he parodied. I never heard that he was molested in these his serio-comic fooleries by the authorities, who were more amused than disturbed by them, as the men in the ranks, from long habit, heeded them not.

On the occasion of the review, some mischievous young fellows laid their heads together to concoct a plan for transforming this witless mortal into a rival General. The plot was admirably conducted; for during an uncommonly serious part of the review, up marches amongst the General and his Staff, as if sprung from the earth, the most extravagantly costumed figure that human eyes ever beheld. It was equipped in a scarlet long coat, immense cocked hat—with a sword in a steel scabbard trailing at least a yard behind it. Its breast was covered with various medals, Birmingham buttons so appended to ribbons as to represent orders of merit, and

a mighty tinsel aiguillette overhanging the right shoulder. White trousers and top-boots completed the man.

As two suns may not shine in one hemisphere, neither was this second General allowed to enjoy his honours long, being conducted away with astonishing celerity between two orderlies. The farce was, however, rich and complete, and, much to the credit of the real General, not too particularly inquired into. A grand station dinner given to him was the final movement in which he took a part.

Ere he quitted us, the General expressed himself as generally satisfied with the discipline &c. of the troops at large. Each regiment and separate service, such as artillery, &c. came in for its own individual encomium. Our battalion was complimented by him in respect of its good discipline, well-kept books, internal economy, &c.; the principal fault being, I think, that in one or two of the companies some of the flints were not screwed in sufficiently square

so as to fall ~~fall~~ and effectively on the hammer in firing. In conclusion, thanks were given to the Lieutenant-colonel commanding, for his solicitous care and attention to the trust reposed in him, to the other officers for their co-operative zeal and unanimity, and to the men for their general steady conduct.

Without any compromise of modesty, a charge I should indignantly repel, I may fairly say that I think we richly merited the praise bestowed upon us. Still, in order to avoid double dealing with my friends' conscience bids me to add that there appears to be a general rule for administering the dole of merit or censure, as the case may be, on such occasions, the exposition of which may in some measure cast a gleam upon the mysterious import of many recorded testimonials as to the state of armies, divisions, regiments, &c. &c.

With a new Commander-in-chief, (be it in the east, west, north, or south, it matters not,) it seems to be an almost invariable rule to find the whole army in a slack, careless, and slovenly

state. (No offence this to his predecessor, as the thing is perfectly understood.) Much fault is found with the existing state of things; strict and sweeping orders are issued. Matters go on pretty nearly as before, that is, gradually advancing with the times. Nevertheless, at the term of his administration the Commander-in-chief does not fail to find wonderful improvement, and in his leave-taking congratulates the army on having attained an unparalleled state of perfection. A successor comes, and in a few days the army is declared to be in as miserable a state as ever, and the play is re-enacted. As with armies, so it is with divisions, &c. Our late review occurred in the second year of the General's command, so that we had the happy prospect before us of two further years of certain improvement.

It is not individuals, but the system, against which I lift up my small voice: but it has obtained from time immemorial, and is probably ineradicable.

Soon after these memorable events, as my chum O'Farrel lay wakeful one night in bed, his attention was drawn to certain sounds as of cautious creeping along the floor, and suppressed breathing. He listened and watched for a while, when presently he was enabled to see, by the faint glimmer of a wandering moonbeam which struggled its way into his apartment, a dark glossy object stealthily crossing the doorway between himself and the light.

With O'Farrel action was as close a follower upon thought as thunder upon near lightning, and in an instant he clasped within his arms the bodily substance of a native upon whom he had pounced from his lair. The embrace was, however, as transient as, alas! are embraces under happier circumstances. The prize slipped away from him with cat-like glibness, leaving him no trophy to boast of, except a smearing of oil, wherewith he was plentifully anointed. The alarm was given, but too late for any service, as the trespasser had disappeared, and left no traces

which might lead to his discovery. As nothing was gained, so also nothing was lost; for Paddy, although he failed in securing the rogue, still saved his property by his promptness of action.

The Native thieves are uncommonly expert and agile. Theft is a profession to which they are brought up. When they set forth on such an expedition as the above, they move generally in parties, are naked, and so soaked with oil, that it is all but impossible to hold them if seized upon. Nevertheless, they place not their reliance wholly on this expedient, but arm themselves, besides, with a knife, which they do not hesitate to apply if needful for their escape. It was, therefore, most probably a lucky circumstance for poor Paddy that he effected not a firmer grasp upon the intruder.

My durzee, ever the most valiant when danger was at the greatest distance, kept up an incessant chatter for the remainder of the night in an exalted Bobadilean vein; chiefly, I think,

because he feared the thieves might return, and he wished others to remain awake as well as himself. I was too much amused to interrupt him. The burthen of his strain ran somewhat as follows:

" He should much wish to know why O'Farrel Sahib had not awaked *him*, when in such imminent danger of being murdered by thieves ; he would have sent the souls of five thousand of them with complaints against him to their fathers. English gentlemen rely too much on themselves. The thieves (may they be roasted in Juhannum !) might at some future time return, and make *him* their first sacrifice while he slept. It was their custom to rid themselves of the bravest first ; and here were these lawless and disappointed men, left at large to revenge themselves," &c. &c.

The tirade was lofty, but, I thought, betrayed strong symptoms of personal misgiving, as *Monsieur Parolles* dwelt upon the supposed consequence of a renewed visit from the un-

sanctified devils," (shytanke buch hon bekhoodu,) as in his courteous enthusiasm he denominated them.

As the rascal possessed some influence with me, his auditors received, with many exclamations of applause, the several outbreaks of valour that ever and anon flashed from his discourse. In their hearts, I have no doubt they took them at their worth, viz. nothing. . . .

An anecdote was related to me about the same time which shows the deep cunning of the Hindostanee "minions of the moon." .

One evening at dusk a certain Syce (groom) who had charge of a horse, picketed at some distance from his master's tent, was abruptly addressed by a stranger who said to him, "I advise you, my good friend, to take care of your nag, for this night I intend to steal it."

Having thus spoken, he retired about twenty paces, and there squatted himself on the ground with the greatest indifference, facing the groom, who, astonished at his cool impudence, stood

transfixed with his eyes intent upon him. On reflection, however, it struck him that he appeared the stronger man of the two, and as his assailant had no weapon but a short bamboo cane, he felt himself equal to the contest in case of necessity:—perhaps he felt ashamed to call for assistance without further assurance of the man's evil intentions, as it seemed very improbable that he would have proclaimed them had he been in earnest. Meantime the shades of night gradually deepened into darkness; yet, still these two parties remained apparently *in statu quo*, i.e. the groom keeping stedfast watch upon the immovable stranger. Suddenly he was startled by the sound of a horse's hoofs behind him, within six paces. He turned round, and, behold! his charge was gone, and already lost in the darkness. In an agony of terror, he rushed on the still, quiet, mysterious visitor, that he might retain his body as a security, and called aloud for aid. His surprise may be better imagined than described, when he found

nothing but the bamboo stuck in the ground with a turban placed upon it, and the white chudder* of the dacoit† transferred from his own shoulders artfully disposed around it. When it had become dark enough for his purpose, the thief had gradually divested himself of his clothing, and arranged it so like himself to all appearance as totally to deceive the poor Syce, and then silently withdrawing himself in snake-like fashion on his belly, had succeeded in getting round and finally effecting the theft, by cutting the head and heel ropes of the horse, mounting, and away ! His original warning to the Syce was an artifice to draw the man's attention from his charge, by attracting it to himself.

I shall relate another incident which is said to have happened in an European‡ camp in India.

* Chudder—Sheet, long strip of cotton, used as a loose garment.

† Dacoit—Highway robber.

‡ Or, camp in which were European troops.

In one of the tents appropriated to the English soldiery, a member of that fraternity one night observed a "large black head insinuating itself under the Kunaut,* and it was no problem that a body intended to follow it. The soldier sprang up and seized it by the long hair to drag it in ; but immediately it became evident, from increased resistance, that accomplices outside were applying their powers to thwart his exertions by a counter-haul. The head began to yield backwards, till an increase of force from some of his comrades again changed the aspect of affairs in the soldier's favour, when presto ! the whole posse, he and his brethren, went rolling backwards, with the head all bloody, dragging amongst them by the long hair. One of the thief's companions, when their attempt to rescue him became desperate, had sliced it off at a single cut. The body they carried off and escaped with. All this transaction was so suddenly accomplished, and the parties concerned so

* Kunaut—Canvas wall.

intent upon their occupation, that no thought was taken to alarm the sentries in time to be serviceable. It was conjectured that the gang were fearful their companions might, if captured, be brought either by bribery or fear to betray them; a consummation which, not being desirable, they avoided by consigning him to a state of sure fidelity.

As to the severance of the head from the body, it would be (applied to the Native Governments in India) a matter of too trivial and ordinary occurrence to notice further; but in England, where, thank God, such practices appear even almost incredible, it may be advisable to state that the operation consists more in skill, perhaps, than in strength. In Lucknow there are *artistes* who can take off the head of an ox at a blow. For further enlightenment on this subject, vide "The Talisman" in "Tales of the Crusaders," and the scene so exquisitely painted wherein Soliman "the Magnificent" is represented as practising this nice art in presence of Richard

"Cœur de Lion," when he cleaves in twain the cushion and the veil respectively.

In the month of February, an expedition to the tomb of Yutfmud-oo-Dowluh, on the opposite side of the river, was projected amongst ourselves. I therefore shall now introduce Captain Peters of the Artillery, who was a component part, and a very prominent one, of the party.

Captain Peters was one of those busy-minded mortals who can at no time endure inaction. He kept not only himself, but his whole household, in a continual ferment. Had his genius been fortunate, as it was original, he must have pigmified Sir Isaac Newton into insignificant littleness. He had not escaped unscathed in his efforts to *increase the sum of human happiness*. He had been blown up while constructing fireworks on a new principle; he had been blown up in his laboratory, when in the act of converting charcoal into diamonds; and was only saved from being blown up a third time by the explosion of one of his own "decuple-proof" steam boilers,

in consequence of having just-stept into the cook-room to direct the preparation of a hash he had that very day newly imagined.

I may as well state here—though it anticipates my narrative—that the last I heard of Peters was—he had written to Government during the period of their economical furor, tendering a plan for saving, which would have *ex-Humed Hume* out and out, had it been carried into execution. He submitted a plan for reducing half the army at one fell swoop, by doubling the efficiency of the remainder. This was simply to be effected by furnishing the retained half with double-barrelled muskets—each musket to have a biform bayonet, to branch out like horns. The rear rank of the cavalry were to ride behind the front, either on pillions or saddles (at the discretion of Government) made for the purpose, thus saving the rear rank of horses to the state. Whether the Government were too blind to appreciate the advantages of these wonderful suggestions, or looked upon them as a satire, was not made

known; Captain P. received no answer, and was disappointed of a Staff appointment at least, as a reward for his valuable hints.

It was upon the habits of this active-minded gentleman that O'Farrel ushered forth to the light the following riddle, which, it must be owned, somewhat smacks of *Paddy's land*.

“Why is Peters like the Titans?”

I may as well give the answer to save time, for nobody ever yet guessed it.

“Because, though he *don't move mountains*, yet he causes the *valets* to skip about.”

To return to our subject.

Yutimud-oo-Dowluh was the prime minister of the Emperor Akbar, and father of the celebrated Noor Juhaz, favourite Sultana of Juhangeer. His career was a most remarkable one.

We read in Orme's “Oriental Fragments of the Mogul Empire” (Note 11) the following passage:

“Aiass, a Tartar, had relations in the Court of Akbar, and having nothing of his own but his

abilities, travelled in quest of fortune to Delhi, accompanied only by his wife, who was delivered in the desert, of a daughter, which, for want of means to keep her on, he exposed; but relenting at the agonies of the mother, returned just in time to rescue the infant from the jaws of a serpent. Their wants were soon after relieved by travellers."

This Aiass, by means of his great talents, rose to the office of High Treasurer, with the title of Yutimud-oo-Dowluh (Support of the State); and finally he attained the highest post, viz. that of *Wuzeer* or Prime Minister. Meantime, the infant waxed, and became a most beautiful woman. She married a Mahumeden nobleman named Sher Afkan, the "bravest of the brave." Unfortunately, the Emperor's son Selim was enamoured of his wife, and when he succeeded to the Musnud (as Juhangeer), procured his murder, after various frustrated attempts, in which the lion-hearted Sher Afkan invariably defeated and slew his assailants.

The lady was raised to share the throne, first with the name of Mher ul Nissu (Sun of Women) and afterwards of Noor Juhan (Light of the World): she was the mother of the Emperor Shah Juhan.

We crossed to the north-east side of the Jumna by the bridge of boats, which is annually constructed on the subsidence of the river, at the close of the rains. A portion of it is daily opened for a brief period to allow the transit of vessels.

The Rouzu or Mausoleum of Yutimud-oo-Dowluh, though of very inferior splendour to the Taje, is nevertheless magnificent. It stands in an extensive garden, which is traversed by high raised and broad walks, paved with red sand-stone. The building comprehends a square of twenty yards, elevated on a terrace of the above-named material, inlaid with marble. The edifice itself is also of the same white marble, inlaid most beautifully, with various patterns of flowers, urns, &c., of many colours. The lower part of

the building consists of a large centre room, with eight smaller ones round it.

The tomb of yellow marble is in the centre room. An octangular minar springs from each corner of the base to the height of fifty feet. The roof is of marble, and flat; if its centre is raised a square apartment of marble, which admits the light by means of elegant lattice-work windows of the same material. Herein stand other monuments of white marble. The view of Agra alone, on the opposite bank of the Jumna, from the minarets, is worth the trouble of travelling the distance of a Sabbath's journey, (on any other day of the week, be it understood,) to the most indolent person existing.

CHAPTER X.

IN the month of April the marriage was celebrated between Mr. Scarsdale and Miss Maria Muller. I was called to the office of groom's man, and the *rôle* of bridesmaid was enacted by a friend of the bride, Sophia Scrymgeour, a *distant descendant* from the renowned Sir Alexander, of "Scottish Chiefs" notoriety.

This fair maiden was the cause of another fatal item in my day-book of life. I was not of an age to resist the sweeping catalogue of blandishments all united in a lively girl of sixteen, which a poet might describe as "raven

hair, alabaster complexion, ruby lips, and pearl teeth." I felt a renewal of the indescribable sensations that so puzzled me at Berhampore, as, spell-bound by the charms of the fair Miss Snowden, I enjoyed the bliss of ignorance, ere my rash disclosure broke the fairy tissue of self-delusion.

At the commencement of the marriage ceremony, I very naturally went and knelt down by the side of Sophia Scrymgeour ; but the clerk, (who, I believe to this day, was a malicious rascal) came and marched me off, most unwillingly, to the opposite flank, by my friend the groom. The bride behaved, I thought, with great propriety, having a tear in one eye, and a smile in the other. From this time forward for several weeks, I was incessantly annoyed by the witless jokes of my companions, founded chiefly upon the bridesmaid's name ; and from the bottom of my heart, I believe Paddy was the *arch* originator, though he stoutly denied the charge.

One would say, "Have you been *a skrim-*

maging' to-day, Thornel?" another, with mock sympathy, would, in my hearing, come out with, "Poor Thornel! he has been severely wounded on a *skrimmaging party*;" while a third exclaimed, "I say, Thornel, you will never get that modest girl into your *Light Company*;" and the like: all of which were professional puns, and very odious.

P.S. I have a great antipathy to many of the terms made use of in matrimony. The "groom," and the "bridal," *quasi* "bridle party," and "the ring," ally it too closely with horse-jockeying and prize-fighting.

I was wont occasionally, during school-hours, with my Moonshee, to substitute chess for my Hindostance lesson. My antagonist was an excellent player, as are most of his class, and used to drub me with little remorse, contrary to the ordinary Indian custom of losing purpos'ly for flattery's sake.

The game of chess, as played by the natives of India, is, in most respects, similar to ours. One

material variation, however; there is, in cases where the pawns arrive at the adversary's royal line, and it affects their value prospectively, throughout the game. The promoted pawn can only assume the rank of the piece on whose square it arrives. The exception to this rule is in behalf of the king's pawn, which becomes a wuzcer (vizier), or, in the English fashion, a Queen. The centre pawns are consequently from the beginning of the game, objects of much greater care than their compeers.

In the month of May we were treated to a north-wester of the primest quality. For three or four days the wind had been light and easterly; but from noon of the day in question, a sullen dead calm had reigned. The heat was almost suffocating, and the tatties were of course useless, for lack of a current of air. About four P.M. the western sky assumed a dirty yellow hue, and the sun, shorn of his beams, glared like a deep crimson ball of fire. In about half an hour, gusts of wind came on, which gradually

strengthened and became more frequent, until they united in an unbroken tempest of wind and dust. For some time the atmosphere was utterly darkened by the latter, and no place of refuge could be found against its subtle particles, which forced their way into the most *recondite* crypts and corners. Like a foolish spendthrift, however, it ran itself out in half an hour. The wind, on the contrary, having thus far “come hand somely down with the dust,” continued to disport itself with unabated energy for an hour longer.

It was pleasant to see, from our eastern verandah, the thatch roofs of our servants’ houses carried along on the wings of the wind like feathers, and, joining company with some others of the neighbourhood, proceed on a tour of discovery into the Doab (i. e. across the river). The air appeared as the busy thoroughfare of a general flitting. Our doors were closed behind the tatties during the storm; but the thermometer, notwithstanding, sunk rapidly from 96° to 84° Fahrenheit, and we felt chilled with the sudden *cold*.

The damage done to the poorer classes of natives was very great; for the tiled roofs of many houses were destroyed as well as the thatched ones, and some lives were lost. Large forest trees were uprooted, and huge branches lay strewed up and down the country, that had been snapped like carrots from their parent stems. A drum was blown away from our quarter-guard, which has never since been seen or heard of to this day.

An amusing anecdote was related to me at Agra, which, as it exhibits a good deal of ingenuity on the part of a native cook, is, I think, worthy of record.

A gentleman visiting his cook-room one day, perceived the chief functionary thereof seated in an apparently uncomfortable manner, and certainly an unusual one for a native. As the man showed evident confusion at this unexpected visit, and as he also kept his position, which was against all rule, his master insisted on being furnished with a key to the mystery, and was reluctantly obeyed.

It appeared that a round of beef, originally beautifully symmetrical, had, from the heat of the weather, become flattened out and misshapen. The cook, with a professional eye, had observed this, and cast about in his mind how to remedy the evil. The result of his reflections was, that he bandaged the round of beef very tightly about with cotton, and then seated himself on the top of it, in order to restore it to form and comeliness; and in this act of self-devotion he was found by his master, as aforesaid.

As I was about to retire from the mess one night at ten o'clock, in the month of June, an orderly brought me the "After Orders" of the day to peruse.

The garrison orders were to the following effect:

"A company, duty strength, from the — battalion,— regiment, will hold itself in readiness to march towards Delhi to-morrow morning, at three o'clock, on treasure escort duty.

"An European officer to command the party.

"The Commissariat will furnish the usual camp equipage, &c. &c."

The battalion orders followed up this requisition by nominating me for the duty with the Light Company.

This notice may appear of the shortest to those who are unused to travel without a fortnight's time to *think* of it, and fortify themselves beforehand; but it is a matter of ordinary occurrence in India, the members of the army being always in marching order, and ready to start at six hours' notice, or less, on an expedition against the antipodes, or to the next world either.

At half-past four o'clock on the following morning, our treasure-laden tumbrils were rattling along the streets of the city of Agra, and my party marching cheerily along by the young daylight.

For six miles of the road, i.e. to Secundra, our way lay through the ruins of the old city of Agra. In one place, on the left of the road,

stands a large stone statue of a horse. At Secundra is the mausoleum of the Emperor Akbar, which at this time I was not able to examine. At half-past seven o'clock, we encamped at Nurkuttu, ten miles distant from Agra. Even at that hour the sun was in a state of high fever, and a glad man was I to get under canvass.

There is no shelter at Nurkuttu, and that day the heat was excessive. The time was the middle of June, when the rains might be daily expected. At two o'clock, P.M., the thermometer stood at 112° Fahrenheit, in the tent; and I was fain, alternately, to stand with open mouth to the wet tatty to draw my breath through it, and to lie down under the table, that piece of furniture breaking, in some measure, the direct influence of the sun, which was very great, even through the double fly of the tent.

The hiatus between the hot winds and the rains is undoubtedly the most oppressive period of the year. The wind is either lulled altogether, or so light and variable, that the tatties are use-

less, or require to be changed from one door to the opposite constantly during the day.

The seasons in Upper Hindostan are by nature distinctly marked into three : viz. the Hot Winds, the Rains, and the Cold Season. Professionally I can reduce them to two : to wit—the grilling months and the drilling months.

According to the first-named division, the hot winds may be said to commence early in March ; the rains at or about the summer solstice ; the breaking up of them at the following equinox. The temperature after that time gradually diminishes, and is never intolerable, unless the season be irregular, from an insufficient fall of rain : when that happens, it is a sure precursor of a famine in that densely-populated land.

As above described, was my situation on that fiery day, and greatly did I rejoice when the sun went down. It is fruitless in India to look for rain until the regular period appointed for its fall. In England every one knows it may be obtained on any particular day, by fixing it for

a pic-nic party in the country ; or, if wanted on shorter notice than that, why, I advise you to walk into a hat-shop, and purchase "a bran new beaver of the André mould," put it on, and walk away a mile into the open country, where there is no shelter. If you can do all this and it don't rain, then a season of famine is certain. Return home, if a house-keeper, and lay in stock for a twelvemonth.

On the second day we marched to Furrah, where there is a grove of about a dozen fine neem* trees, affording delightful shelter to a small encampment.

Let me here advise the traveller of this road, who may make a day's halt at Furrah, to look after his horse-flesh. The place is a shoemaking place, and a prominent feature in its domestic economy is to obtain every hide of that quadruped that it easf, from the generous Arab to the humble tattoo, at the cheapest possible rate.

These virtuous people revere Wordsworth's

* Neem, a species of Melia.

"simple plan" of effecting their object, by seizing an opportunity to mix poison with the channa or grain destined for the cattle which are picketed in the camp; and many unsuspecting persons have had occasion to rue their short sojourn in Furrah, on leaving behind them the dead carcasses of valuable horses that were in fine health and condition only the day before. I was forewarned, and therefore forearmed.

I had been entertained during the morning's march by one of my sipahees, who undertook the part of kissugo (story-teller) to the party. He was a smart intelligent fellow, and I permitted him to step out a couple of paces in front of his section as they marched along. I received amusement myself from his tale, and benefit also, as it served to keep me awake.

To fall asleep on horseback is a very common occurrence while riding slowly at the head of an infantry party in the hot season—time, from two o'clock till six or seven A.M. The horse generally naps too as he goes along, and the

rider is often aroused by a false step of his nag's. Sometimes the drowsy sensation is so oppressive and distressing, that it becomes necessary to walk a few miles to shake it off.

The history of this morning detailed the adventures of one Lutchmun. The following is an abstract:

The aforesnamed worthy, setting out on his travels to seek his fortune, came by chance to a deserted city. Palaces and houses were there, all in beautiful order, the bazaar set out and furnished with the most tempting display of every description of evarc. Gardens looked gay, and cool fountains played; but not a living soul was to be seen—not a bird—not a breathing creature. No sound was astir save that of running water, and a light murmur amongst the leaves of trees. Lutchmun wandered about for a length of time, gratifying his senses amidst these delightful scenes, of which the narrator, to his credit, gave a not unpoetical descriptiion.

After winding up his auditors to a pitch of

eager curiosity, the story-teller proceeded to show, in a most captivating manner, how Lutchmun, being a man of worldly wisdom, did, at the time of exploring the mysteries of this lifeless city, also take especial care to ascertain that there were no concealed owners of property who might pounce upon him unexpectedly and undesiredly; and this having satisfactorily done, he without further loss of time commenced a vigorous assault on the meethaees and luddoos (sweetmeats) exposed in the shops.

The narrator, on perceiving that his auditors deeply sympathised with his hero in this stage of his recital, very indulgently dwelt at some length on the quantity and quality of the good things that Lutchmun contrived to find accommodation for; and, in my conscience I believe, never did twenty hungry men succeed in making away with so much food as my good-natured story-teller conceded to the powers of the favoured Lutchmun. All this the contented listeners received, nothing doubting. Some of the elder

Native officers actually groaned under the pressure of delight, while their imaginations revelled in the pictured bliss of our hero.

After satisfying himself with confections to his heart's content, Lutchmun proceeded to the quarter of the surrafs (or bankers). There he possessed himself of as many rupees as he could well carry; but afterwards discovering the more secret treasury of gold mohurs,* the silver was contemptuously thrown away to be replaced by the more precious metal. The still-continued silence and long impunity emboldened him yet to linger in this splendid solitude, and he proceeded to explore the palaces of the great. In consequence of this, his gold was very shortly cast away in its turn to make room for diamonds, and other the most precious jewels.

Lutchmun now returned home, married a king's daughter, (as most Eastern tales terminate,) and became a very great man, and pro-

* *Gold mohur.* A coin of sixteen rupees value, or about thirty-two shillings.

tector of the poor. Many of his neighbours, on hearing his adventures recited, set forth to seek the Deserted City, in anticipation of wealth, but it was never afterwards found ; and it is remarkable that the greater part of them returned not, they who did being beset with misfortunes for the remainder of their lives.

The story is of a common-place kind ; but the time of its recital, and the circumstances attending it, gave it an interest in my mind which must apologise for its introduction.

On my arrival at Furrah, I immediately sent on a soldier with a letter, requesting permission from the commandant at Muttra to enter that cantonment with an armed party on the morrow.

The next day we continued our march, and when half a mile from the station, I found my messenger awaiting me with the reply of the Brigade-major, and permission of course granted.

I found on arrival at Muttra, that there were reports of a gang of marauders, who had been diligent in their calling in or near the line of

route which lay before me to Delhi. There were not sufficient disposable troops at the post to relieve my party, so that I was ordered to proceed onwards with the treasure ; but in consequence of these rumours it was deemed advisable to increase my force by fifty men ; and an officer, junior to myself, was ordered to accompany them. My party now consisted of about one hundred and sixty, including commissioned and non-commissioned officers ; and I felt my consequence considerably enhanced by the chance of an encounter with banditti face to face.

European officers were then not so plentiful as of later days they have been ; otherwise a subaltern of two years' standing might not have been placed in so responsible a situation. My old friend Lake the poet dined with me, as I refused to quit my camp to dine with him.

The following day we marched seven miles to Jyth. This place is near the sacred town of Bindrabund, which we passed. It is one of the

most holy of Hindoo towns, and almost as full of monkeys (which are supremely holy) as of men.

Many years ago two cavalry officers, mounted on an elephant, shot a devout ape here, which raised the town against them. They were obliged to take to the river for safety, which was swollen, and the stream strong. They were drowned, with the elephant and mahout (driver).

A heavy fall of rain came on this afternoon, and continued almost without intermission till the following evening. This detained us at Jyth.

On the succeeding day we again proceeded eleven miles to Chatha: the rain had ceased, but the roads were lamentably the worse for its visitation, and it was noon when we came to our ground.

Soon after our arrival, a demoniacal-looking rascal was seen approaching our camp, intently engaged at a game of football by himself. His toy turned out to be a bleeding human head,

which he had a few moments before dissevered from the corresponding body of a poor wayfarer on the road. It required some tact to seize him, as he fiercely brandished his naked and still reeking tulwar* about; but it was at last well done by a muscular sipahee, who pinioned him in the rear, while he was kept in play by a few bayonets in front. My durzee urged me to execute him on the spot, lest he should escape and do *some one else* an injury.

I turned him over to the village cutwal (civil authority); and got rid of him. It afterwards proved to be a case of insanity.

The next day brought us to Horul, fourteen miles. The rain had ceased, and proved to be only the Chota bursat (little rains), a minor fall, which, *in* some years precedes the grand outpouring by a week or ten days. It had not at all improved matters, for the heat was but little allayed, and the dry hot wind had become

* *Tulwar*—Scimitar or sabre.

converted into a vapour, steaming from the ill-slacked earth. The roads were also excrable, and we did not complete our march till about three in the afternoon.

Koss minars are erected along this great road, between two old capitals, Agra and Delhi ; i.e. pillars, to mark distance, as our English mile stones, but without inscription. They are perhaps twelve or fourteen feet high, and nearly two miles (a Koss) apart. In one of them, an impudent fellow was built up alive for presuming to fancy himself in love with one of the Royal Princesses !

One very great inconvenience was caused to us by the report that marauders were hanging about the neighbourhood, a rumour which daily strengthened. Instead of setting forth on our day's march at two or three o'clock in the morning as usual, I did not feel justified in breaking up my camp, and arrangements for protection during the night-hours, until dawn appeared in the east, and we were consequently

very severely handled by goodman Sol. On our fourth day's march from Muttra, viz. between Horul and Bominy Kherah, (12 miles,) I was much surprised at the extraordinary number of sturdy fakkeers we fell in with on the road ; rough-looking rogues, totally unfitted for a drawing-room. Their numbers were so considerable, indeed, that they attracted the attention of my Native officers, and at length a Subadar* seriously noticed to me, that he believed they belonged to the freebooting party of whom we had lately heard so much.

This opinion once harboured, became much strengthened during the day after we had encamped. Many idle fellows were seen lounging about in the course of it, who were possibly making observations of their own, though they by no means seemed to court those of others. They were, or appeared to be unarmed, and committed no overt act of aggression to justify

* Native commissioned Officer.

me in making a seizure ; though that reflection would not have deterred me, had I supposed any good might have been derived from doing so. I took every precaution for defence that either suggested itself to my mind, or was suggested to me by the more experienced Native officers. I had previously ordered that my camp should be fixed where there was a dry well,* of which there are abundance all over India.

On the brink of such a well as now mentioned, I ordered the treasure tumbrils to be placed. These tumbrils are strong chests on wheels,

* The lands are irrigated by means of wells, but on account of the loose sandy soil in which these are sunk, they very often give way in the rainy season ; and it being considered by the natives cheaper to construct new ones than clean and repair the old, they are deserted and left most dangerously exposed in all parts of the country ;—a curse in every respect to travellers, for many fall into them accidentally, and if not killed by the fall, often die the dreadful death of starvation ; and many others are cast into them by thugs and highwaymen, after being first robbed and murdered. Thus they afford a convenient and safe accommodation to crime.

somewhat resembling artillery limbers ; round them the hackries (baggage carts), camels, and bullocks were disposed as a barricade, or obstacle in case of assault. Also all the camp followers, drivers, bazaar people, &c. &c., were here posted; both for their own protection, and for service if needed.

It had been formerly a custom to transmit specie from one treasury to another, in bags of 1000 rupees each : but these had at sundry times been stolen, without any defeat of the party under whose charge they were put : for an attack would be made by a body of armed desperadoes on the guard, and while these were occupied with the enemy, an empty-handed detachment of the latter seized the opportunity to carry off many of the bags ; which being done, the fighters would suddenly run away, according to preconcerted arrangement, leaving the whole honour of the victory to the military, but taking a good portion of the money to themselves. These occurrences generally took place

when the treasure guard was commanded by a Native officer ; but they were not unknown in other cases, and it behoved, and still behoves all in trust, to be very wary and cautious.

The inconvenience attached to the conveyance of money in bags was at this period done away with, and we had nothing to do but protect the tumbrils, and, according to an old saying, the silver would take care of itself.

During the day, a few of the idle vagabonds before mentioned sauntered into my camp, not together, but separately, and affecting not to know each other. Once or twice they made show of a quarrel amongst themselves—which was all “ gammon.” I was not sorry for this, as it gave me an opportunity, without apparent design, of making them aware what sort of a reception an attacking party was likely to meet with; for these people are not to be despised—they are very brave, and at times able to muster three or four hundred strong, being often supported by neighbouring villagers, and their proceedings

even contrived at by some of the wealthier and more influential classes.

One arrangement of mine, which they were very welcome to observe, was that of the money tumbrils being placed on the brink of a deep dry well, and that a serjeant's party, together with all the camp-followers, was posted near them for the express purpose—in case of adverse fortune—of backing the mammon, carriages and all, into the said well, where they would be safe enough till redeemed by a more prosperous party of rightful protectors.

Various little circumstances occurred this day that caused me to be doubly cautious in making snug for the night; matters so apparently trivial as might seem contemptible in description, and to betray an unnecessary apprehension of danger. Nevertheless a number of these “shadows of coming events,” however faint, appearing together, should not be disregarded. The villagers were, we all thought, more mysterious and uncommunicative than usual; there seemed to

be an indescribable "*all-overness*," (to use an expression common amongst soldiers) in every thing, significant of somewhat wrong, though of too undefined a nature to grasp substantially.

I was determined to be scrupulous over much rather than err on the side of negligence. It was my first trust of any serious responsibility.

At sunset, when my detachment assembled at the retreat,* I was very particular in examining the pouches, flints, &c.; after which the men for immediate duty were told off. A chain of sentries, and also four picquets, of a corporal's party each, were placed as usual around the camp, the former immediately, and the latter thrown out about a hundred yards distant to the four winds. Not more than one-third of the party were to be unaccoutred at once during the night, and many other little et-ceteras were attended to. Once every hour I visited the

* All guards and parties on duty assemble at sunset, when what is called the retreat is sounded, the men are mustered, their equipments examined, and the arms lodged for the night.

sentries and picquets, and Lieutenant Wallace took the alternate half-hours for the same duty. On other nights we had shared this with the Native officers. I had a good ally in a bright moon.

Whilst I visited one of the out-picquets at midnight, the sentry suddenly observed that he saw a flashing light from a grove of trees nearly half a mile off. We watched for a short time, and twice or thrice distinctly perceived from the same quarter a flash as of a spear-head catching a stray moonbeam amongst the trees. I was now fully convinced that there was mischief brewing, for no honest people could have business there at that hour.

I returned to the camp, and sent out a bugle to the picquet, with directions to give immediate notice of any more decided indications of intended hostility; and I prepared the men to be all ready to spring to their places on the sound of the alarm. I also sent orders to all the pic-

quets to retire on the main body at the same summons.

If I were writing fiction, it would be but justice, after all these preparations, to repay the reader with at least a skirmish, if not a bloody and desperate battle ;—but let the truth be told, though the heavens should fall. It was my object, for it was my duty, to prevent an attack if possible. I was not on an expedition to smoke out a nest of vermin, but to protect treasure. All was to be lost on my side, and nothing to be gained from a parcel of almost naked rag-muffins. No prize-money ! No promotion !—for no senior officer was present, who might peradventure have got a polite knock on the head ! And no glory !—for even glory could hardly have been reaped from so unpromising a field of ill weeds.

The conclusion of my adventure is sufficiently unromantic. Not long after midnight, a shrill call from the picquet bugle struck on our ears.

and in an instant the little camp was gleaming with bayonets : the picquets joined without loss of time.

A body of two or three hundred armed ruffians had rushed from the wood, with the intention, it is supposed, of taking us by a *coup de main*; but the bugle's sudden call from an outpost, answered by another from the camp—the gleam of bayonets, which bristled our little stronghold like an illuminated hedgehog, if any poetical imagination can comprehend that figure, which is doubtful—and again, the knowledge that a surprise was now out of the question, and that therefore the money would be at the bottom of a well sooner than it should pass into their hands—all these reasons, combined with others, perhaps; &c supposed caused them to give up their purpose. They halted—hesitated for a few moments—then retreated—and we received no further trouble from them during the remainder of our journey.

I could have given a casting vote in their

counsels when they hesitated; by the discharge of a few musket-balls amongst them; but it is always prudent for the military to hold wholesomely in awe the clutches of the civil authority—a power which is most especially tender of the lives and *liberties* of villains. But indeed from the very nature of their calling they require more countenance than honest folk. As to pursuing them, they were sufficiently dispersed without it; and it lay not in our line of duty, which was solely to keep with and protect our charge; and foolish enough should we have looked, if, lured away by the feigned retreat of one party to follow it, we had been out-Welling-toned by another in our rear.

Thus ends this old wife's tale,—causing no other inconvenience than a night of watchfulness, which we took out in a good nap the next day.

Our next marches were to Sikri, fourteen miles; and to Furreedabad, ten. The succeeding day brought us twelve miles, to the mauso-

leum of the Emperor Humaioon, where we encamped. That prince was the father of Akbar, and great-grandfather of Shah Juhann.

I ascended the Rouzu,* which is a splendid building. In the centre is a white marble dome, the effect of which from a distance, when the sun is near the horizon, is remarkably fine. The interior is divided into a number of compartments, each containing a white marble monument. That of the Emperor is in the centre under the dome.

The view from the top of the building is extensive and magnificent. It commands the imperial city of Delhi, distant five miles, whose lofty marble minarets, gilt domes and cupolas, shone resplendent in the setting sun when I saw it. In all directions are noble ruins of mausoleums, forts, &c.

Our last march, into Delhi, was only five miles, but the road was execrable. We first passed under the ruins of the Black Fort, which

* Rouzu,—mausoleum.

are extensive and grand; then the pillar before mentioned, (p. 147,) Feroz's Lat,h. We afterwards entered the city by the Southern or Delhi gate. The street from this entrance is very wide, with a branch of the canal running through it. We passed the palace, of which more presently, and finally gave up our charge at the Treasury, near the Cashmere Gate.

We were politely invited by the Collector to spend the day with him; but this we were obliged to decline, for Speering had already engaged us; he had, in fact, come out to meet us in the morning.

My responsibility was now at an end; and I resolved to devote the current day and the following one to the "lions" and "sights" of the place.

In the afternoon we visited those parts of the palace to which visitors are allowed access. A wall of red sand stone, thirty feet in height, surrounds the sacred precincts. One side is washed by the Jumna.

After entering the grand gateway, the first striking object is the Dewan-i-Eam (or Court of the People). As a public hall of audience this has long been deserted, and is in a shameful state of neglect, being defiled by hosts of bats, who have there colonised. The Emperor's throne is in a recess in the wall, entered from one side by a private door. The whole is of white marble, inlaid (as usual) with beautiful coloured stones. But, different from other places, they here represent the gayest birds, some with butterflies in their beaks, others with cherries and fruits of divers kinds. Various European, and flowers of the more northern parts of Asia, not known in Hindostan, are also represented, which tends to strengthen the surmise that Shah Juhan employed Florentine architects in the designs and construction of his magnificent buildings. Over the centre of the throne is a representation of Orpheus, with a guitar, and various animals are practising saltatory movements in his dancing academy. Bishop

Heber's attention was particularly attracted by this, which may be seen on reference to his tour through the provinces.

The Dewan-i-Khass (or Court of the Nobility) was the next object to which we were led. It is the most elegant building I have anywhere met with, except the Taje Muhal at Agra. It is a kind of flat white marble canopy, supported by columns of the same, inlaid with flowers and ornaments of gold. In the inside, around the cornice, is the Persian inscription so beautifully introduced into "Lalla Rookh." Literally translated, it runs thus:—

" If paradise be on the face of this earth,
It is this—it is this—it is this."

The floor is of white marble, and the throne stands in the centre. A branch of the canal passes under the Dewan-i-Khass. The outside of the building is ornamented at each corner by a light cupola, overlaid with gilding.

The baths were the next objects of curiosity

shown to us. These, with their reservoirs, are composed of the common material—white marble, inlaid, *dustoor mooafik*, (that is, as usual,) with gems of all colours, so that it would be but repetition to enter into detail respecting them.

On passing from the palace to the Jumu Musjid, our attention was arrested for some time by a party of pigeon *manœuvrers* in the street.

Pigeons are particularly cherished at Delhi. The (now late) Emperor Akbar's hobby was the nurture of those birds, some thousands of which he kept, and the neighbourhood of the palace swarmed with them. He possessed, I believe, all known kinds; but the finest and *purest of blood* were the Shirazees, which are very distinctly marked, and only of two colours; one having slate-coloured wings and head, the other reddish—the remainder of the body is pure white in both of them. They are large and handsome.

In the city there are regular pigeon educators, persons who teach their flocks to perform various

evolutions in the air at certain calls of a whistle. It is highly amusing to see parties of these birds, belonging to different proprietors, manœuvre in the air, join company, separate, descend, or rise, at the calls of their respective lords, who, unable themselves to part company from their mother the Earth, dutifully abide with her, and in squatting majesty direct the movements of aerial hosts who do their bidding.

After having reasonably entertained ourselves with this diversion, we proceeded to take advantage of the remaining daylight, by hastening to the Jumu Musjid, which was hard by.

For this noble structure, as for most of its architectural glories, India is indebted to the Emperor Shah Juhan.

It is built of red sandstone, elaborately inlaid with white marble. It surpasses every other edifice in massive grandeur. Being built on a small hill, it is seen from a great distance. The red-stone terrace on which the building is erected, and which is attained by ascending a

broad flight of thirty-five steps, is about a hundred yards square. The mosque, flanked by two minarets about a hundred and forty feet in height each, occupies nearly the whole of one side, and open cells for Mahumedian worshippers the remaining three of the square terrace. In the middle is a tank for the purposes of ablution, supplied with water from two wells behind the building; that is to say, the water is drawn from a spring well, and thrown into a second well, or, to speak more correctly, a reservoir, above it. The bottom of this latter falls a little below the surface of the lower well, and the water is again raised hence to an aqueduct a little above the level of the terrace, and conducted to the tank through pipes under the pavement. The double process was resorted to on account of the great depth from which the water was to be drawn.

In one of the cells before mentioned, I saw a Mahumedian in the most hopeless state of leprosy. He was busily employed in reading

aloud the Koran, in a chanting or sing-song manner, and took no notice of us. His fingers and toes were gone, his hands and feet were rotting piecemeal away, and he was utterly beyond hope of cure. I have seen death and its approach in many forms, but none so fearful as that of loathsome rotting leprosy. Well may the afflicted of that disease have been selected as the especial objects of our blessed Saviour's compassion and mercies, for it is indeed an awful visitation.

As Wallace and I were anxious to devote the whole of the following morning to the wonders of the Kootub Minar (minar or column of Kootub), situated ten miles from the city, we started thitherward at three o'clock, accompanied by Speering, and arrived at our journey's end by daylight.

Well were we repaid for our trouble. The Kootub (as it is generally called) is the highest column in the known world. Its height is two hundred and sixty-nine feet, exceeding by forty

that of the monument of London. The diameter at the base is fifty feet. The column is ascended by a spiral staircase within—the number of steps to the last landing-place, or gallery, immediately under the cupola, is three hundred and fifty-nine—the exterior is cased with red stone, fluted and *Vandyked* to the height of three terraces—the fourth division upwards is chiefly of white marble—the fifth and last, which brings you immediately under the cupola, is of red-stone, with marble inwrought. The views from the different galleries, as you ascend, are very fine. Amongst other objects are the ruins of Toghlukabad, an old fortress on the shoulder of a hill, curious on account of the prodigiously massive stones of which it was built, now lying about in confusion.

Accounts vary as to the founder of the Kootub Minar. The Mahomedans assert that it was built by Shah Shumsher Deen; while the Hindoos claim it as the workmanship of Pirthee

Pal, many years before the Mahumedian invasion of the country.

An iron pillar stands not far from the Kootub, which, to the best of my memory, is about fourteen or fifteen feet high, and six inches in diameter. The natives believe that it has no end downwards ; and there are marks on it of cannon-balls which were discharged against it with the muzzle of the gun almost touching, by one of the Mahumedian conquerors, who attempted to level it with the earth. As he failed in his attempt to fell it by violence, the Hindoos were only the more confirmed in their belief that it has no nether extremity. Had he dug round it, I dare say the depth of a very few feet would have cleared up all doubt on the subject.

A second Minar was commenced upon, that was purposed to have been of much larger dimensions and to tower far higher than the existing one ; but it attained no great elevation,

and remains an unfinished ruin about a hundred yards from the Kootub.

Whilst at this place, I was amused with the boldness of some natives, who will leap to a great depth for a trifling present. There was a large baoree*, or well, upwards of sixty feet deep to the surface of the water ; and into this we hired two or three young men to leap, which they did. They descended with legs and arms spread all abroad till they came to the water, when they closed themselves into a straight line, and plumped in like kingfishers, only feet foremost.

We put up for the day in a fine old mosque, to which we had ordered our servants with breakfast, tiffin, &c., &c.; and in the evening we returned leisurely to the city, in order to admire all the wonderments that lay in the way.

The whole country around is heavily laden

* Baoree,—a well sunk and built about with masonry. A winding staircase goes round the outside of many of them, which conducts to different stations downwards, applicable to the varying depths of the water.

with mausoleums, mosques, old forts, &c. &c., varying in their respective states from tolerable repair to the last stage of ruin.

The Rouzu (mausoleum) of Suftur Jung, one of the earlier Nuwab Viziers of Oude, ranks amongst the former, and lies half-way between Delhi and the Kootub Minar. It is customary in the mild season of the year to make parties of pleasure to this place, as it affords ample accommodation to visitors, with their servants, amongst its numerous outbuildings.

Nearer to the city, on the right hand, is the old Observatory, in a deplorable state of ruin. A gnomon, which was built to a very great height, at an angle of elevation between 28° and 29° , or the latitude of the place, and pointing to the north star, remains in a state sufficiently perfect to show what it has been; but a large piece has fallen out of the middle. Other buildings erected for astronomical purposes remain about it, but in a lamentable state of decay.

We re-entered Delhi by the Lahore gate, for

the city is surrounded by a high stone wall, and has no entrances but through gateways, each possessing a civic guard, and closed at night. From that portal we proceeded homewards through the Chandee Chok,* the main street, and leading directly to the palace. It is very wide, with a branch of the canal built through the centre of it.

About the middle of the Chandee Chok, on the right-hand side as you approach the palace, is the small mosque of Roshun-oo-Dowluh, a memorable spot, for in it sat Nadir Shah to witness the execution of his mandate to massacre the inhabitants of the city, in 1739; nor did he stay the hand of slaughter until the Emperor Mahummed Shah himself, attended by his court, all arrayed in deep mourning, came and humbly besought him to spare the lives of his subjects.

Delhi has not to this day recovered from the effects of that dreadful massacre, as the town is still thinly inhabited.

* Literally translated, Silver Street.

I saw in the street a white elephant, belonging to the Emperor; but there was nothing remarkably admirable in its appearance. It seemed to me more like a scrofulous than a healthful animal, though I believe it was perfectly the latter.

Having now no other duty before me than to return with my party to Agra, I resolved to devote another morning to the further survey of this interesting neighbourhood.

I sent off the detachment to their former halting-ground near Humaioon's tomb, and Wallace and I remained behind till the evening. At daybreak that morning we set out on a new expedition. Leaving the city by the Kabul gate, we rode through the Subzee Mundee, or Vegetable Market, and then diverged to the canal, along which we rode for two or three miles. It is beautifully shaded with fine trees, and the scenery altogether might well pass for English, were not the delusion wholesomely checked by the black phizzes which in India are sure to pop

up from every nook and corner. On the right lay a magnificent jheel, that in the rainy season (for I have since seen it at that period) has a living surface of wild fowl, affording capital sport to *bad shots*, who cannot fail to secure some of them, if they fire the gun in the direction of the mass.

From the canal we made a long stretch to the gardens of Shalimar, once very splendid, but now only representing, as it were, a skeleton map of their former selves. We had no time to sigh over this evident change for the worse, so hastened back to the city *via* Moobaruk Bagh, the country house and garden of Sir David Ochterlongy; crossed a small arm of the canal; passed over the ground now the site of the infantry lines; and finally returned into Delhi through the Cashmere gate, under a burning sun, and grievously tired.

During the day, we held a levee of jewellers and picture-sellers, who really produced most exquisite and beautiful articles, most of them,

however, high as the stars above the reach of poor *Subs.* In the evening, Wallace and I took leave of our kind host Speering, and followed our detachment to its encamping ground.

The chief productions of Delhi are, I think, flies and white ants. If you wish to purchase sweetmeats in the bazaar, you will not be able to see the articles themselves, because they are always covered over with large masses of flies, which, however, are quite as faithful a guide to the confectioner's shop as any sign that could be hung out.

As to the white ants, the ground in many places actually moves with them. They are destructive beyond measure. The mango tree, for which they have a particularly strong *penchant*, cannot exist in the neighbourhood on account of them.

Our return to Muttra was unattended by adventure, save that the rains commenced with unprovoked fury before we had got half-way back. One day my tent, which ought to have

been pitched ready for us on arrival at our ground, was swamped on the road, and we were obliged to take shelter in an hospital dooly under a tree, for which accommodation we were thankful.

This and the like discomforts are of ordinary occurrence when marching in the rains, and are not to be thought of beyond the moment.

N.B. This is the time to enjoy—to *enjoy* a cheroot—or segar, if you prefer the term, which is, however, not the right one.

While at this place I took occasion to visit the hospital, to see some cases of *Guinea-worm*.

Our expedition to the Bikaner desert the previous year had caused an exceedingly great number of our men to be grievously afflicted with that dreadful scourge. The grasscutters of the cavalry regiments had been the greatest sufferers, because, being barefoot, *it was supposed* they were more obnoxious to the adherence of deposited eggs of that reptile as they traversed the sands. Some of these worms exceeded

three, and even four feet in length, and were as fine as a small thread. They were principally found in the legs and feet of the patients, but no part of the body was necessarily exempt from them. The method adopted for extracting them was to get hold of the head of the animal, and extract a little daily when inclined to yield ; which portion so obtained was secured by rolling it round a small roll of cotton or other material and fastening it. The process required consummate care ; for if the worm broke, the unextracted part festered in the flesh, and caused foul and shocking ulcers. The patients were almost reduced to skeletons. Only three or four cases remained at the time of my visit ; but some hundreds of the "army of the desert" had suffered the previous year.

At Muttra, Lieutenant Wallace with his contingent parted company.

On further pursuing my journey to Agra, I found that Coalah Jheel, four miles from Muttra on the right-hand side of the road, was in close

communication with the river Jumna, that ought to have stood clear away on the left. I had therefore to travel for a full mile in about two feet depth of water. Further on the road, a torrent, with a fall of about three feet, rushed from a ravine. I thought to myself, if Paddy O'Farrel were here, he would certainly christen it the Cataract of *Nigh Agra*.

On the last day of my journey, I took the opportunity, while passing Secundra, of visiting the tomb of the Emperor Akbar.

I once more draw upon the Calcutta Journal, whose description of it is critically accurate.

"At the distance of six miles from the Fort of Agra, you approach the grand southern gate, that leads to the Mausoleum of Akbar, which is situated on an extensive terrace in the centre of a grove two miles in circuit. Red-stone walks, 70 feet in breadth, and raised considerably above the level of the ground, divide the garden into four equal squares, adorned with several small

cascades, and with a grand gate at the centre of each face of the outer wall.

"The mausoleum is of the pyramidal form with octagonal towers at the angles, built chiefly of red stone, rising 120 feet in height from a base 120 yards square, with numerous pavilions with marble cupolas, and arcaded open gallery, round each decreasing story of the pyramid, and terminates above in four small marble turrets, that rise from the angles of the highest room, which is partly open at top. This edifice comprises twenty-two apartments, the upper room, which is composed of white marble, being thirty yards, including its open colonnade, the outer arches of which are filled up with delicate lattice-work, cut through the solid slab; the pavement is tessellated, of black granite and white marble—the cenotaph, of white marble, is raised on an oblong base of the same materials; the sculpture is divided into compartments of flowers and Arabic inscriptions, executed with a taste and

delicacy truly admirable. At a short distance is a marble pedestal, three feet high, on which a golden lamp (carried away by the Jauts thirty-five [now nearly fifty] years ago) formerly stood.

* * * The body of Akbar is deposited in a central room below, in a neat sarcophagus on which is inlaid, in black marble characters, simply the name of "Akbar."

"The grand gate, on the southern side, is built of red stone, with octagon towers at the angles, and raised on an extensive terrace; it forms an oblong square, 130 feet by 90 in breadth: in the centre of the principal faces, a magnificent arch, forty feet in breadth, rises to the height of sixty feet.

"The wall, surmounted by battlements, is carried eighteen feet higher. The wings are decorated with a Gothic arch of smaller dimensions: in two stories from each angle of the roof, a fluted minaret of white marble rises with a balcony round to the height of sixty feet; the pa-

vilions which once surmounted these have long since fallen. The front is curiously inlaid in compartments with marble and different-coloured stones. An Arabic inscription in fine relief decorates the grand arches."

"The plan of the interior is a central octagon room, with a hemispherical ceiling, rising nearly to the top of the building ; it is forty feet in diameter, and is decorated with Gothic arches in the different faces, with suites of apartments in two stories round it."

CHAPTER XI.

IN the general relief of the army, which was to take place during the ensuing cold season, my battalion was ordered to Muttra, and Milden's to Lucknow.

I shall pass over the intermediate time from my late return to Agra until finally quitting it, as it was chiefly spent in revisiting the spots already described, together with a *quant. suff.* of professional duties, such as parades, committees, courts, marchings and countermarchings, &c. &c., and now and then a lounge at Johnny Monro's shop.*

* Not to know Johnny Monro at Agra, is tantamount to being oneself unknown. To say what he deals in would be a work of labour; to sum up what he does *not* deal in were the easier task.

In due time we marched to Muttra. Scarcely had I settled myself in a comfortable bungalow not far from the Red Cow,* than the left wing of the battalion was ordered to Alligurh, to take the duties of that post *pro tem.* until another corps should arrive there from a great distance. This arrangement allowed the troops at present stationed there to march to their new destination, about six hundred miles off, during the cold weather.

The wing accordingly marched under the command of a Captain, who was the second senior officer present with the battalion. This new state of affairs was very satisfactory to me, as my present commandant had been a very kind and attentive friend to me from my first acquaintance with him on joining the regiment. He was a married man, and his house was at all times made a home to me; both by himself and his excellent lady. Kindness received in this manner in early life, is not easily forgotten.

Alligurh is situated about forty miles from

* A house painted red, so named.

Muttra; to the eastward of north, and lies between the Ganges and Jumna, two miles from the Native town of Coel.

The Fort of Alligurh, which is now dismantled, was at the time of which I speak kept in thorough repair. One hundred and fifty Behishtees * were constantly employed during the dry months to water the works, which were constructed of earth. By this means, grass was kept strong and fresh on the surface, and served to keep the fortifications from destruction by the action of the weather upon them. During a late economical rage, this fortress was destroyed, given up as a lesson of abstraction to the dissecting hands of the sappers and miners, though confessedly one of the finest military holds in the Upper provinces. But our Indian Government never calculates on reverses ; so that our whole strength is thrown out upon the frontiers, and the interior of the country is left sadly deficient in rallying points in case of external disaster.

* Water-carriers.

The road leading from Coel to the Fort is broad, and has on either side a row of fine mulberry trees, which add much to the beauty of the approach.

In consequence of the profuse watering before mentioned, it was singular, as well as reviving and delightful, to behold in the hot season, when the whole visible earth around was scorched, and brown, and lifeless, the deep green walls of the Fort of Alligurh rising in luxuriant freshness ut of the adust ground, like a young phoenix from surrounding ashes.

Alligurh, or Coel, is a civil as well as a military station, and holds control over a large district. With the gentlemen of that service we soon became on very intimate and friendly terms; and I may take this opportunity to remark, that wherever I have been cantoned, where the civil and military officers of the Government were stationed together, I have invariably experienced the most cordial and unaffected kindness from the former.

As a body, there is not a class of gentlemen

in any part of the world placed in situations of so high—and to those who never quitted England, almost incredible—responsibility as they are; and that not only at a very early age, but they are also selected for the service in the first instance, as it were, by chance; and yet their integrity (with a few, though a very few melancholy deviations) has been and continues to be proof against temptations unknown at home.

By the side of the road that leads from the fort to the town, lay the dwelling of a holy Fakir. That unassuming domicile was simply a hole in the ground, with a mud wall raised about two feet round it. The diameter of the whole might be about three feet. A place was cut out in the middle for his feet, and he sat on a ledge within his circumvallation. All his wants were proudly attended to by his pious countrymen. His stock of furniture consisted of a tattered chatha, or umbrella, equally the mock of sun and rain. At the time of which I write, he was in the ninth year of his tenancy. I have conversed with many residents, and never

learnt that on any occasion has this truly pious man been guilty of absence. I myself was in the habit of passing the spot almost daily for some months, and at any hour of the twenty-four, and there he ever sat with the patience of a tree.

In the cantonment is a large grove of babool trees (*Acacia Arabica*), which bear a yellow flower, and shcd a delightful perfume, that scents the air to a great distance around.

There were some fine gardens at Alligurh that had belonged to Pedron, the French General of the Mahratta army, but latterly to Monsicur Derridon—(Derrydown we used to call him). To these we had unlimited access, and were wont to regale ourselves there after sunset, with peaches, apples, grapes, mangos, water-melons, musk-melons; &c. which was a remarkably agreeable pastime.

On the arrival of the relieving corps at Alligurh, we returned to Muttra. A little adventure occurred on the first morning's march, that

promised well to save me any further trouble about mundane affairs.

Having obtained permission with two other young officers to ride ahead of the wing,* we came up with the encampment of a native of rank who was travelling across the country. I rode up without reflection, and indeed unconscious of the sacredness of the precincts, to the wall of the Zunanu, or ladies' territories, a large enclosed area; and as the canvass bulwark was high, I stood up in the stirrups and stretched my neck to peep over. A matchlock, with the match lighted, and a finger on the trigger, was immediately presented to my breast, and I was commanded by a fierce-looking fellow to retire instantly. He was an irregular trooper, belonging to the grandee's private guard, placed as a sentinel over the haram. I reined back a couple of paces to satisfy the peremptory man's scruples, and then asked him if he was aware what consequences would have resulted to both

* Wing—Half the regiment or battalion.

himself and his lord, had he carried his threat into execution ; and as our men were now within a short distance, I pointed to them and said they would certainly have done summary vengeance both on him and all belonging to him. His reply was prompt, and quite oriental in style—that is, interrogative, and addressed to me in the third person :

“ Are not similar orders given daily to ‘ the presence’s * sentries, and what would be expected from them under like circumstances ? ”

I replied, that perhaps he acted from a sense of duty in obeying his orders, but that his master deserved hanging for having given them ; and thus we parted, without any unnecessary loss of love between us.

It was again the hot-winds, and a succession of dreary days lay before us. I rode into the town of Muttra one evening with some friends, on an elephant, to see the turtle fed on the

* Hoozoor—The presence, similar to “ your honour,” &c. in English parlance.

banks of the river, which here abounds with them. Every evening the Brahmins beat a tomtom or drum at one of the principal ghauts, and the turtle swarm to be fed with grain, which is profusely scattered for them. They climb over one another up the steps of the landing place, with their long necks unsheathed like telescopes ; and the surface of the water near the bank is literally covered over with those dusky candidates for food, when the sound of the drum summons them to their vesper meal.

This station was much infested with bandikoots, a large species of rat, which attains the size of a well-grown rabbit, and is exceedingly destructive. Their holes also are as large as rabbit-burrows. Their hair is coarse and bristly ; when running, they make a grunting noise like pigs. In the soldiers' lines and the bazaar they were very numerous, and at one period many were nightly caught in traps by the Sipahees, and let loose on the parade-ground each morning for the exercise and amusement of our

dogs. Few besides the thorough-bred Scotch terriers cared to touch them. The Native Pariah dogs fairly turned tail and made off when they saw them set at liberty.

I have, I believe, before remarked, that the town swarms with monkeys, the property of no one in particular, but generally protected and held sacred by the Hindoos. They steal from the shops anything *nice* that presents itself to their hallowed paws, and walk away with great dignity and composure after committing a theft. One great fellow, feeling himself hurt, I suppose at our intrusion on the elephant, ran up one of the killises (small spires) of a Hindoo temple, and when at the top shook it so violently, almost immediately over our heads, as to make us tremble and anticipate a consummation that would have parodied the nursery line thus:—

“ Down comes the monkey, and killis and all.”

The town of Mattra is the capital of the Brij country, and is celebrated as the birth-place of

the god Krishna, who spent his earlier years between this place and Bindrabund, already mentioned. At this season of the year melons ripen, and Muttra is one of the most noted places in India for them. The water-melons grow to a prodigious size. They are planted on the sands of the Jumna, and it is surprising to behold that immense fruit, whose whole interior, except the seeds, is a delicious pulp that melts in the mouth like snow, growing on a long thin wire of a stem out of the dry and parched sand, and at a time too when neither rain nor dew falls to give them moisture. So dry indeed is the atmosphere at this season, that it is customary for the Europeans to sleep in the open air at night, with no canopy but the sky ; and I have often been glad to draw a blanket over me before morning's dawn in consequence of the descent of cool air from the upper regions, while in the interior of the house the thermometer has stood sometimes at 96° Fahrenheit. The slightest canopy overhead, even of gauze,

destroys the effect, by intercepting the downward current of air; and the heat is then very little, if at all alleviated.

Stout old Time dragged heavily along through the sand and dust of May and June, (how different in England!) and the rains came at last to refresh gasping Nature. How speedily does she now recruit herself!—the crops absolutely *rush* from the earth to welcome the blessed relief, and animal life acknowledges the boon in the maddest ecstacies of joy. But I must pass on, and not imitate the hot-weather *moyements* of the honest old gentleman, of whom I have just spoken.

One day during the rains, I was surprised to hear a discordant screaming of various kinds of birds near my bungalow. On looking out, I saw congregations of domestic fowls, crows, *mynas*, and divers other birds, all deeply engaged. White ants had taken their wings, and were issuing from the ground in many places. The fowls and crows very sagaciously stood by

the apertures, and quietly captured them as they came forth ; but the smaller birds took them on the wing, so that the air was a scene of busy slaughter. Myriads of wings about an inch in length, fallen from the slain, lay about the earth, which in my compound* was completely besmeared with them.

This year we were again destined to change our station, and to leave a gay frontier post for private country retirement to the one-battalion cantonment of Etawah in the Doab. In November we left Muttra for our new destination, after first furnishing ourselves with supplies fitted for a *shopless* station at the repository of Shaick Cossim, a well-known character in those parts. Our first march was to Baldeo, twelve miles after crossing the river. This town is a very great cotton mart. There are trees in abundance, but all in enclosed groves, so that a tent cannot be pitched amongst them. Whatever

* Compound. The enclosed premises belonging to dwelling-houses are so called in India.

else they may produce, they are exceeding productive of monkeys—an unprofitable fruit.

It is a very lively and pleasing sight to see, after a march, the Native soldiers prepare themselves for their daily meal—(they have but one.) After bathing, which is an indispensable preliminary, they make fires, each man his own, round which he draws a sacred circle, not to be desecrated by any foot of inferior caste. He then kneads his cakes of flour* and water, mixed with a little *dal*,† and after clapping them into proper form between his hands, bakes them on an inverted earthen vessel over the fire. He has also a little brass pot boiling at one corner of the fire, in which is mixed ghee (i. e. clarified butter) and spices for sauce, wherewith to fry his cakes after they are baked. As they know that their officers never interfere with them at meal-times, they do not much mind their passing near the sacred precincts, in the

* This is in Upper Hindostan. In Bengal rice is used.

† *Dal*.—Pease meal.

centre of which they sit like Caspar ;* but were strangers to come near in the same manner, they would be severely handled, for their meal is a holy offering, and some of them pray over every mouthful. Most of them are indeed strictly religious, so far as they are enlightened, and obey all the injunctions of their law; they are noble fellows, mild, sober, steady, obedient and brave, and devotedly attached to their British officers.

The second day we marched twelve miles to Kundowlee; and the third, twelve to Etimad-pore. Midway on the latter day's journey, we had a distinct view of the Taje and Fort of Agra; distant about four miles over a bare plain. We saw a very large herd of antelopes, but scarcely within range to kill: two or three of us, however, fired at them, and had the satisfaction to make them run away. I need not enumerate the places of little or no note through which we passed to Etawah—of which Shekoabad, a deserted military cantonment, was the chief—

* In the opera of *Der Freischütz*.

but shall pass on to that post, where we arrived on the eighth day. I may however remark, as one of the discoveries made in my marching experiences, that a new book of routes is very much wanted for the Bengal Presidency. The returns which were formerly made to Colonel Paton, then Quarter-master General, by officers travelling, and which were published for general guidance, were furnished at a time when the country was comparatively little known, and the distances computed often by mere guess-work. I recollect my friend Paddy O'Farrel made a riddle on the subject: "Why are Colonel Paton's miles like mould candles? Because they are longs and shorts."

Etawah is a very large town on the Jumna, in latitude $26^{\circ} 47'$ North, and longitude $78^{\circ} 53'$ East, situated amongst deep ravines which here border the river, stretching inland about two miles. The military cantonment stands at the junction of these with the cultivated plain land. Hyænas, wolves, antelopes, porcupines, jackals, and a

great variety of other wild animals, abound here. Children are constantly taken from the town in the night-time, even from the arms of their parents, particularly in the hot-winds, when all the people bring their charpées* out into the open street, where they sleep. Not the slightest precaution is taken by the indolent natives against these shocking occurrences. When remonstrated with, they either reply, that out of the great number of children in the town, the chances are in favour that *their own* will escape ; or, "It is the will of God : if he has destined them to be taken, no human precaution will avail." Day after day I have heard of children thus snatched away during the previous night, and yet the apathetic townsfolk treated the subject with perfect indifference.

During the cold weather we had plenty of sport, game being abundant. The antelopes led us many a long and weary chace ; but we were occasionally rewarded with good success.

* Bedsteads.

On the bank of the river two miles above the city, stood a building to which we frequently resorted for a few days' pastime. It was the tomb of a particularly honoured saint, and consisted of a ground floor with dead walls around it, and an upper airy apartment to which access was had by means of an outer staircase. In the upper floor there was originally a circular opening of about two feet in diameter, through which the holy man was let down into the dark apartment below, amidst general admiration, and then that only outlet was built up, and he was left to endure the pangs of starvation unto death in utter darkness, without the possibility of relief, had agonized nature induced him to repent of his self-sacrifice; for no one would have dared to commit so sacrilegious an act as even to approach the spot till long after the catastrophe should have finally closed this world upon him. We were very little disturbed by undue serious reflections in those days, and found the old gentleman's place a very conve-

nient rendezvous for our little pleasure parties, and slept over his remains without fear of ghost, or indeed anything else, worse than ourselves.

It was on one of our excursions hither, in the end of December, that a party of us observed a number of young Paddy birds (species of crane) perched upon a tree. The stem was slender, and we shook it violently in order to dislodge its tenants. In this we failed, for they clung to the branches with great tenacity; but the unusual motion produced sickness amongst them, and they discharged a shower of small fishes upon our heads, with which they had lately been provided for another purpose by their fathers and mothers.

One of the officers about this time constructed a fire-balloon of enormous magnitude, and one night was fixed upon for its ascent. The afternoon was occupied in preparations for this event, which proved a much greater one than was ever dreamt of in our philosophy. A small mud fur-

nace was erected on the outer parade-ground, and the balloon held over the chimney till inflated — smoke taking the place of gas. A quantity of cotton rags saturated with oil was placed on the cross bars at the mouth of the balloon, and at nine P. M. lighted. It rose beautifully, and soared away at a great height over the town of Etawah.

On the following morning, my pay Havildar, (scrjeant), when making his daily report, seemed wonderfully big with important matter, and I desired him to believe himself if he had anything he wished to say—which he did to the following effect:—

A convocation of Brahmins had been suddenly held at midnight, in consequence of the passage of a blazing meteor over the town, between the hours of nine and ten, of a magnitude never before witnessed. It arose in the east, and sailed away westward: its progress was remarkably slow, and it eventually disappeared by gradually diminishing into distance; whereas the cus-

tomary method was to shoot along at a prodigious rate and vanish suddenly. The wise men, soothsayers, and astrologers were consequently all at sea with respect to the nature of this marvellous phenomenon. After several hours' consultation it was eventually given out that a great war was to break out suddenly in the quarter whence so dreadful a messenger set forth, and hold its desolating course across the country traversed by this fearful herald into the far west; but its end was not to be determined, inasmuch as the meteor had not been extinguished over the spot to point it out, but had journeyed onward beyond the ken of man.

The Hayildar, who was himself a Brahmin, told this with high glee. He had been present when the balloon was innocently despatched on this terrific errand of denunciation, and the Native soldiers were too good lovers of fun to undeceive their civil brethren of the priesthood in the affair of the blazing meteor. It remains, I have no doubt, a matter of marvel to this day

amongst the sages of the enlightened town of Etawah.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MILDEN AT
LUCKNOW.*

"We have had a gay party from Cawnpore. To add to our Christmas amusements, the King gave an elephant-fight. On the day appointed, several of us left cantonments early, and proceeded to one of his palaces a few miles out of town. All Lucknow was assembled there. Horsemen and footmen (Don't make a pun), with mounted elephants, camels, and dromedaries numberless, formed an elegant spectacle from the fer-

* Here, as elsewhere, in making extracts from letters, I have occasionally altered them for adaptation to these memoirs, but without interference with the facts themselves. Something of this kind was necessary, as they were not originally written for publication, nor for transmission to England.

races of the palace; more especially so, as an Eastern crowd is much superior in point of appearance to an European one, on account of the white dresses of the former, with their white, red, blue, black, rose-coloured, or green turbans and *cummerbunds* (waistbands or sashes), which are so much better adapted to please the eye than threadbare coats and greasy hats—let alone the absence of women, who look very much out of place in a crush. We were treated with a very good breakfast, at which I seated myself next one of the Ameers of the court, a very sensible, pleasant, polite old man. It is astonishing how much easier it is to understand a well-informed native (although he speaks in quite different moods and tenses to the lower orders) than the gabbling canaille. To be sure, he will now and then bring out a formidable Arabic or Persian word; but if he sees you embarrassed, he will instantly give you *change* for it in Hindostanee. After breakfast (no ham allowed) we adjourned to the

terrace, where already were seated the King, his son, the Resident, the Viziers, and the Cawnpore ladies. The greatest anti-slavery advocate must have acknowledged a powerful impression of grandeur, in spite of himself, on beholding a prince seated in a small chair, but overlooking thousands and tens of thousands of his subjects, with the knowledge that a nod from his head to the Master of the Horse would be sufficient to lay hosts of them in the dust.

"The fighting elephants were kept picketed at a great distance from each other. The mahout (or driver) having taken his seat across the neck, the chains were cast loose. When they began to move, a party of horsemen surrounded them and exasperated them to the highest degree by pricking them with spears. They soon become unmanageable by the driver, and the only way to get them to the ground is by the suwars (horsemen) galloping close ahead of them. The elephants make after them, and woe betide the wretch that is caught! When the anta-

gonists arrive within a hundred yards of each other, they give a terrific roar that makes the welkin quake. The charge is very grand; and if the match is too unequal, the weaker is thrown on his haunches by it. After the first shock, the contest is little more than a trial of strength; they put their tusks together and push with all their might. One was completely raised on his hind legs. The second that was tried would not fight, but ran away as fast as he could; and a couple of poor fellows, who were unable to get out of his way, were literally broken and doubled in two by blows from his trunk. This was looked upon as a trifle, for ten or a dozen is the ordinary return of slain on these occasions. Nothing can be more beautiful than the part taken by the suwars in this noble sport: they seem able to control the movements of their horses with the same ease they do those of their own limbs."



"A funny occurrence took place at the palace some years before the Nuwab was *bê-kinged*.

"A great entertainment was ordered to be prepared for the European residents, altogether in the English fashion. The Khansaman* General, anxious that everything should be in the highest style, repaired to the *Europe* shop in Lucknow, in order to make provision for the feast. Perceiving a large batch of *certain* earthenware vessels, which he considered to be a beautiful service of crockery, on account of the family likeness they bore to each other, he carried off the whole stock to do honour to his master's board.

"In due time, when the ladies and gentlemen were ushered into the supper-room, the most conspicuous objects were these very vessels plentifully bestowed about the table, laden with jelly, *blancmange*, &c. &c.

"It was impossible for even the gravest countenance to withhold a smile at the innocent

* *Khansaman*--Purveyor.

error of the purveyor; but the mistake was complete and very unequivocal.

"It was for the same Nuwab that a grand concert was once got up at Lucknow. Before the first part was finished, he expressed himself very much delighted with the music, but most especially with the piece first of all performed, of which he desired a repetition. Piece after piece was accordingly played again, but only disappointment resulted. 'That is all very fine,' he said, 'but it is not what I mean.' So the matter was given up in despair. The usual tuning of instruments recommenced with the second part, when, to the astonishment of all present, the Nuwab delightedly exclaimed, though not in English, "That's it—that's the music I like!" and the circumstance carries no reflection against his good taste."

CHAPTER XII.

ONE morning after breakfast, while seated with two friends, it was announced to us that a stranger wished to be introduced. On permission being granted, a noble-looking fellow in Persian costume made his appearance. After making his salam, he produced a beautiful Damascus sword, which he was desirous we should purchase from him, naming at the same time a very moderate demand for it. As he appeared evidently wayworn and in distress, we put some questions to him respecting his circumstances.

He said that he was a Persian merchant—had been shipwrecked, and lost his property; that he was making his way overland to Ispahan, where his family resided in affluence—had contrived to make a slender stock of money, fortunately saved from the wreck, bring him thus far, but it was now all spent; that he had calculated with what sum he thought he could complete his journey, and that sum was the price he demanded for his scimetar. He knew full well that it was under its value: but that was no consideration; for did not necessity compel, no sum could induce him to part with it. It had been his father's.

Ten rupces (about one pound sterling) was, to the best of my recollection, the amount he required for the sword; and as we were much struck with his manner and noble bearing, we made up that sum amongst ourselves, and offered to present it to him, at the same time expressing our sorrow at his misfortunes.

He drew himself up haughtily, and said, "he

was no mendicant, and had not looked for insult. Misfortune had obliged him to offer for sale the sword of his father at a price infinitely less than its value, and its purchase he asked as a favour. He had not expected to be looked upon as a beggar. At all events, it should never be supposed that he had got up a false tale to excite our sympathy."

He expressed all this politely, but very coldly. He was about to quit us; but we apologised, and soothed him, and offered to purchase his sword, but at a fairer valuation for himself than he had put upon it. This he also declined, repeating that necessity had compelled him to the act, and he would take no other than necessity's price for it.

We much admired the honourable punctilio of the poor fellow; but as he seemed determined to repel any endeavour of ours to serve him gratuitously, we made the purchase on his own terms.

Unwilling to give up our point, we held a

short consultation amongst ourselves, in which it was resolved to try him once more on another tack. Standing up, therefore, we thus addressed him in as high-flown an Eastern style and as solemn faces as we could command:—

“ Magnanimous stranger, your* conduct is noble; and although we regret that you refused our offer of money, we cannot but admire the honourable scruples that prompted you to do so. The ground of opposition no longer exists, for you have received the sum of money you required for your journey, for which you have given a sword of much greater value.

“ Noble Persian, as the offering of English gentlemen, accept again the sword of your father, you who are so worthy to wear it.”

Saying this, we (or one of us) held it forth to him. We were agreeably surprised to find that all his scruples had been overcome on the completion of the purchase, and he received back

* The address should have been in the third person, had we been scrupulously nice about it; but we were not.

the sword with evident delight, and very gratefully. We bade him God speed, and he departed on his journey.

One of those (my friends) is now no more; the other, I hope, yet lives; and should he see these pages, they will no doubt recal the above-recorded occurrence to his memory.

There is a tree very plentiful at Etawah, and common in India, called by the Natives *sujna*, but by us the horse-radish tree. Its leaf is somewhat similar to that of the laburnum, and it bears a small white flower so profusely, that in its season the tree appears covered with a snowy veil. In smell and taste it would require a nice discrimination to distinguish it from the horse-radish, for which it is used at table, a branch being scraped for that purpose.

I was much entertained one night by a Hindostanee khootpootlee (or puppet-show). The figures were of the size of Punch in the English representation of that immortal personage, but the theatre was thrice the dimensions of his.

The performance is supposed to be carried on for the amusement of a Padshah, who is brought upon the stage in a chair: from this he alights, and seats himself upon a throne prepared for him; after which the officers of the court form themselves on his right and left. A fisherman enters, pursues his calling, catches a large fish, and is himself carried off by an alligator; a cobra di capello glides upon the stage and is caught by a snake-charmer; a traveller appears carrying a bundle, lies down to sleep, after previously placing his burthen on the ground for a pillow; it is abstracted by a thief; after which come the pursuit, capture, &c. Dancing girls and other characters are exhibited, and finally the *coup de grace*, viz. a company of Sepoys enters, led on by an English officer, who, to the especial amusement of the Native servants allowed to see the show, utters a very profane oath, which is the first occasion of silence being broken in the performance. A hostile party

of Natives, in their own proper costume, is brought to oppose the Regulars ; but on the word "fire" being given by the officer, every individual man of the enemy drops down dead, no doubt out of respect to the English ladies and gentlemen present ; for when the pantomime is exhibited for the sole entertainment of Natives of rank, I have been told that the officer and sepoys are the parties so dealt with.

The performance was really excellent. The puppets were managed simply by strings in the hands of the showman, as we discovered on being permitted to enter into the sanctum.

Porcupines are very abundant at Etawah, and grievously destructive are they in the gardens ; for unless great care be taken against their depredations, they devour during the night-time whole crops of young peas and other tender vegetables, for which they have an unhallowed *penchant*.

A large irregular mound of kunkur* in the cantonment, much perforated with their capacious holes, was full of them, and we attempted various modes to dislodge them, but without effect. Several loads of straw were burnt, and large quantities of gunpowder exploded in the windward openings; but, owing to the multitudinous ramifications, highways, and byways in the interior of their citadel, we could not compel them forth. A fine Scotch terrier was one time sent in to dislodge them; but he almost immediately returned with half-a-dozen quills fixed deeply in his flesh. Whether in turning round to return he had come in contact with the porcupines, or that they had *shot* the quills at him, we were unable to decide positively; though our opinions were especially in favour of the former supposition.

When we first arrived at the station of Etawah,

* *Kunkur*—Hard, vitrified, uncultivable earth, common in the Upper Provinces, and of which the ravines are especially composed.

we picked up a number of porcupine quills daily on the parade-ground; but they shortly became so common as to cease to attract attention.

I have elsewhere mentioned that in no part of India is there any deficiency in the article of ants, "of sorts," as the shop notices have it; but the Doab has, I think, an especial claim to the mention of a species of black ant, in length about three quarters of an inch. The numbers appertaining to one commonwealth are perfectly surprising. You may perceive on the surface of the ground, *passim*, a long black line, a foot in breadth, and extending for two or three hundred yards; and this is a living and moving mass of those insects. One flank of the line rests upon the nest, and the other generally terminates at some pile of straw, or other source of plenishment for their civic magazines. The proper side of the road is kept by the outgoing and homeward-bound parties even more strictly than in Cheapside or the Strand. To speak

professionally, they appear as if they were changing front by the countermarch of ranks. It is an interesting sight to behold each individual of the returning half of the current laden with its inch of straw ; while the outgoers shine in unbroken and glossy blackness along their busy path, intent to procure their quota also, to add to the common stock. I have many times seen a Jainee* turn away from his road when it has been crossed by one of these trains of ants, and walk aside till he came to the termination of their line, when he would resume his journey ; and this he would do through the fear that in stepping across he might accidentally trample one or more to death, and thereby,

* Jainee.—A caste of Hindoos, particularly fearful of depriving even the meanest insect of life, as they believe in the transmigration of souls. In drawing water, they cover the mouth of their vessels with muslin or cotton to avoid the risk of capturing animalculæ. Some, I believe, even gently sweep the road before them as they travel along, to remove all living creatures out of their path ; and various other methods they adopt for the preservation of life, in their nature almost as ingenious as others that are employed for the destruction of it.

peradventure, despatch the soul or souls of a departed uncle or two, or a grandfather, upon a fresh embassy in the mysterious policies of transmigration.

In the hot weather there blooms at this place, as well as at many others in the neighbourhood of the Jumna, a species of convolvulus, which is remarkable because it thrives when all other vegetation of the lowly classes appears to have fallen beneath the solar influence. As I have found the same flower noticed, and better described than I can do it, in some verses with a note in a volume of the Bengal Annual, I shall take the liberty to transcribe them ; at the same time putting the misdemeanour into the account with other thefts previously committed, but likewise acknowledged in these confessions.

" The sun is high in heaven; all nature sleeps,
And silence, deeper than the still of night,
Pervades creation; the o'erheated air
Dances in dazzling vapour on the earth;
That which hath breath retires to deepest shade,

To gasp in paip the canty respiration,
 And vegetation dies beneath the blast.
 Yet have I noted, near the Junna's banks,
 One little floweret,* delicate and pale,
 Blooming unstricken on the feverish soil ;
 And though 'twould seem that but one single glance
 From that fierce beam should calcine it to dust,
 Yet it survivest and singly flourishes,
 Whilst all creation round it droops and dies.
 And thus it is the delicate in frame
 May daily see rude health borne down by death,
 And pass them by, in awful evidence
 That Providence is just, and favoureth none."

I shall here venture to give an extract of a letter from a friend at Dinapore.—A short time ago the tiger-hunt might have fallen under the lash of the severe Miss Eleanor Fitzpatrick ;† but in her reformed character of Lady Grant, it may be passed over with forbearance, should it meet her eye.

* "A small species of convolvulus of a pale colour. It blooms during the season of the hot-winds, opening at sunrise and closing in the evening. In some spots the ground is completely carpeted with them, and the effect is singularly beautiful contrasted with the otherwise general desolation."

† In Miss Sinclair's admirable work, "Modern Society."

It may be noticed, that here as well as elsewhere, in making extracts from letters, I have slightly altered them for adaptation to these Memoirs, but without any interference with the facts themselves, and with little in the style of the writers. Something was necessary, as they were not composed for publication.

"The Major asked me and one of our ensigns to go out with him towards the hills in search of game—such as tigers, buffaloes, bears, hogs, &c ; although it was late in the season (beginning of April) for such an excursion. Of course we very gladly accepted the invitation, and immediately after muster,* on the 1st, we sent off our things, together with thirteen elephants, borrowed for the occasion. After four or five days' march we arrived at Sipayah Ghaut, on the Gunduk,† where the jungle commences. Here

* The troops and military establishments throughout India are mustered on the first day of every month.

† Gunduk—A large river tributary to the Ganges, taking

we got sight of the snowy mountains—marched next day—crossed the Gunduk—saw an incalculable number of quails, and killed about twenty-four brace: moved again in the morning. Our junior member shot a large wolf that came to look at us as we passed along. He was hit in the shoulder, but made off; but the inhabitants of a village about a quarter of a mile off recognised their old friend limping over the plain, and bringing out a host of Pariah dogs, gave us a most delightful chase. Our Mahouts (drivers) put the elephants to their speed—the wolf was killed, to the great joy of the villagers, who said he had committed great devastation amongst their goats.

“On the 7th, after returning from an unsuccessful search, a countryman came and informed us that one of his buffaloes had been killed the day

its rise in the highest peaks of the Himalaya mountains, in lat. N. $29^{\circ} 30'$, long. E. 84° , and surrendering its waters to the great stream nearly opposite to Patna.”

before by a tiger, and he would guide us to the place.

"Early the next morning we started well armed. I had two double-barrelled fowling-pieces loaded with ball—the Major four, and we had ample need of them.

"On arriving at the place, I was surprised to see that instead of the immense jungle to the northward, the fellow pointed out a long thin patch of reeds in the middle of an extensive plain, on which many people were at work. Our line was made and the cover entered. In the centre was a good deal of water—on each side reeds to a hundred yards' extent. After penetrating about two-thirds through the cover, the elephants began to trumpet,* and kick the grass; and we were now sure that we were about to come to immediate action.

"At this moment we were assailed by an almost overpowering stench, and on looking down,

* A piercing noise made through the trunk to warn their companions of danger.

found ourselves in a perfect den, with the grass all trodden down, and full of the bones and mangled carcasses of animals. Amongst others, we saw the feet of hogs, and pieces of hide of the same animals. We saw the grass moving ahead of us : the elephants made terrible noises ; —we closed fast to a corner, and saw the foe, who, with a roar like thunder, sprang from the cover, with intent to gain another similar patch, about a hundred yards farther in advance.

" The roar made the elephants retreat several paces, at the same time closing to the centre ; and so unsteady were they, that we could not fire. Whilst we were in this state of indecision, another tiger rushed past us and fled by the rear to the den again. We now had to beat back, and drove the last-mentioned animal out upon the plain. A volley rolled her on the plain five or six times head-over-heels like a hoop ; she then came back with arrow-like speed, and in an instant was mounted on one of the elephants, with one paw on the head, ano-

ther on the buttock, and her teeth in the centre of the trunk meeting therewith. It was a grand sight. The tiger shook the elephant as a dog shakes a bull—the elephant did all in his power to dislodge her, but in vain. At last he threw himself on his side to crush her; but she was too cunning for him, and skulked away into a bush. She successively served two other elephants in nearly the same manner, we being unable to fire on account of the thickness of the grass, and the elephants being constantly in our way. At last the major (a dead hand) got a shot as she was making towards him, and brought her down. She was a fine tigress, nine feet long, and her skin, teeth, claws, &c. now ornament my east wall, instead of pictures or other trumpery.*

"We now proceeded in pursuit of the male, who gave excellent sport, and in some of his charges carried everything before him, the elephants clearing the way for him. At one time he took to the open plain, lashing his tail, and growling

* A faithful transcript!

terrifically. On a bullet striking the ground near him, he stood still, looked at us, and demanded our business in an awful voice. The cattle on the plains took the alarm, cocked their tails, and off they went, their keepers after them.

"The action lasted about an hour: on our side we had a return of three elephants wounded. The tiger got his death-wounds from two balls entering at the same time, while he was making a charge at my elephant. Feeling himself fainting, he made for the water, in which he lay down. This caused the blood to gush out from his numerous wounds, and he died with unmitigated but impotent rage, expressed in his noble countenance to the last. The deep sound of his dying groans was as sweet music to about a hundred natives who had now assembled from some distance off. After they felt fully convinced that he was dead in good earnest, they dragged his carcass out upon the plain with ropes. We then measured him: he was ten feet long, and had stood eleven

hands (three feet eight inches) high. We killed on the same day, besides the old ones, a cub about six months old.

" During the night, our people heard two tigers calling near us. In the morning we went to the jungle, and finding a fine place for hogs, deer, &c., beat it up. As before, there was water in the centre, and high cover on each side. I with three elephants took one side, and the Major and Ensign the other.— On arriving near the extremity, I saw a fine flock of ducks on the water, and dismounted in order to get a pot shot at them. Whilst I was there, the elephants on the opposite side of the water, which was about twenty yards broad, commenced a trumpet march. As it was likely, if any hogs were there, one or more of them might cross over to my side, and as I had no idea of waiting for an interview with an enraged wild boar, I made the best of my way to the elephant: nor was my movement premature; for I

had barely mounted, when a roar, of which I now pretty well understood the nature, discovered to us five tigers scattering in as many directions. In about two hours they were completely defeated; four lay dead on the field, the fifth swam a nulla and escaped for that time: the whole had originally formed a family party of mother and four young ones, three parts grown. The Major, who has killed more than any man in India, said he had never before seen such a fighting *jat** as they were. On the following day we killed the cub that had previously escaped from us.

"On the 19th we commenced our march back again. At Sipayah Ghaut we experienced one of the terrible storms that come down so frequently from the mountains. The hail fell very thick, and the fire really ran along upon the ground. For a quarter of an hour the storm appeared stationary close over our heads. The thunder did not roll, but came in momentary

* Jat—Caste, race, species.

explosions as of artillery fired in the air : it was ‘awfully grand.’—While mentioning the mountains,* I will not let the opportunity pass of saying, that their appearance on a clear day, especially after rain, is a most imposing sight. We saw three or four ranges distinctly, the nearest twenty-five miles from us, the most distant one hundred and fifty. The effect is indescribable, when at early day, before the plains receive the light of the sun, the snowy masses are seen illuminated above the horizon at the height of twenty-six thousand feet, or five miles above the level of the sea.

“We regained our station on the 23rd, after an expedition of more than ordinary success.”

* The Himalayas

CHAPTER XIII.

IN the month of September two companies were ordered from the regiment to relieve a similar party in the garrison of Calpec, a post about ninety miles distant. It being my turn for duty, I was sent with another officer who commanded the party.

Calpee is in the province of Bundelkund, and stands upon the south-western bank of the river Jumna. Our march was disagreeable enough, it being in the height of the rainy season, and the country swamped. We were very well

pleased with the appearance of our new post on our arrival. The fort is situated on a perpendicular bank, one hundred and fifty feet in height, which rises immediately from the river, and on that face is sufficiently secure against attack. On the land side it is encompassed by deep ravines, which at first sight might strike the observer as a formidable obstacle in the way of an assaulting party; but in reality they are a weakness, much more likely to serve as a covering and protection to the foe than an impediment. The fort itself is small, and our garrison of about two hundred men was almost sufficient for it. The treasury of the district is within the walls.

There is a bungalow built for the accommodation of the officer commanding, but in an ill-selected situation, where the heat is insufferably oppressive, viz. at an angle where the parapets rise immediately without the walls of the house, and intercept every current of air.

My dwelling-place was a much pleasanter one. Almost immediately on the summit of the high

bank above the river is a building that was originally a Mahomedan musjid (mosque). After Calpee came into our possession, some additions were made to the fabric, and it was converted into a magazine. Subsequently the stores were transferred elsewhere, and the old temple became the dwelling-place of one of the officers on duty. The exterior surface of the roof is divided lengthwise, one side being taken up with circular domes; but the other is flat, with an outer parapet two or three feet high, and is a most delightful spot for a morning and evening promenade, especially in the rainy season, as it is constantly dry during the fair intervals, and is fanned by every wind of heaven that stirs.

The town of Calpee is one of considerable consequence, and appears in most old maps of India, where places of far greater modern dignity are unnoticed. It is in latitude $26^{\circ} 10'$ North, longitude $79^{\circ} 41'$ East. Calpee is one of the principal thoroughfares for traffic between the North-western and South-western Provinces. It

is celebrated for its extensive manufactories of paper and sugar-candy. The latter article is very white and transparent, and much in request at the neighbouring stations, on account of its cheapness; but it is by no means so sweet or well-flavoured as the Chinese sugar-candy, which is always preferred when it can be had. And I will here inform English ladies, that sugar-candy and new milk from goats are invariably used in the composition of tea in India, in lieu of ordinary cream and sugar, which they greatly transcend.

The rupee chiefly in circulation in Bundelkund is a little, thick, dumpy coin, on the model of a double Gloucester cheese, about twenty per cent. less in value than the Calcutta one.

Our period of duty in this garrison was for three months, during which time my friend and I had each only one white face to look at, and the reflection of another when we chose, excepting when we went occasionally to spend a day with the Commercial Resident, or the

Governor-general's agent, which was very rarely, for the distance to their residences was considerable, and lay through the narrow streets of a long and filthy town and bazaar.

I have often been requested to give some account of an Eastern bazaar, more particularly by ladies, who, having engaged themselves in "fancy fairs" at home, which they have called by the above name, appear to entertain some notion that a real Oriental bazaar is a place of elegant resort to the lovely and gay of the land, and a splendid realization of the "sublime and beautiful." Why should these pretty imaginings be done violence to by the rude hand of Truth? I declare that no such heavy responsibility shall lie with me; for I will merely say that the literal interpretation of bazaar is "market" or "market-place," and then wash my hands of it altogether.

One evening, as my friend and I traversed the terrace of the mosque, we beheld a most brilliant meteor. The wind was easterly, and though

tolerably fresh and in the rainy season, yet there was an oppressive feeling in the atmosphere that was quite unusual at such a period. This luminous body, when our notice was first attracted towards it, appeared to the southward of west, about midway between the zenith and the horizon. It was intensely bright, and larger to sight than the full harvest-moon. It slowly and majestically traversed half across the heavens in a horizontal line to the eastward, leaving in its track a train of white cloud as straight as could be drawn by a rule. It lasted in full splendour for upwards of half a minute, and then became suddenly extinct.

On the following day, I mentioned the appearance of this phenomenon in a letter to a friend at Etawah, who in his reply informed me that it had also been seen at that place, and not much inferior in size to what I have above stated. This was at a greater distance by ninety miles from the object than was our situation. I saw announced in the Calcutta newspapers some

time afterwards, that an immense meteoric stone had fallen near Mirzapore, on the Ganges, on the identical evening of the above occurrence; and as the direction taken by the luminous body was fair for that city, there can be little doubt but that the stone was the extinguished wreck of the same. It had buried itself deep in the sand by its great weight, and the force with which it descended. The distance between Calpee and Mirzapore is about two hundred miles.

Our time passed very pleasantly, though without much variety of occupation, during the three months in garrison in Calpee; for neither my companion nor myself was so dependent upon others for amusement as to render our situation either disagreeable or irksome. Our position was decidedly favourable for the practice of economy, as there was nothing to be purchased except the necessary articles of life, and the before-named staples of paper and sugar-candy, neither of which was likely to entrap us into extravagance.

In December we were relieved by other two companies, and returned to Etawah.

The usual amusements of the season, viz. shooting, fishing, &c. when duty permitted, carried us through the cold weather. We were also often enlivened by the company of visitors; gentlemen both of the civil and military service, who frequently passed through the station, Etawah being one of the principal thoroughfares to our north-eastern frontier posts. And be it known that *no person* of proper *caste*, whether previously known to any of us, or a stranger, was allowed to enter the cantonment without being carried away as a prize to one or other of the bungalows, and obligated to receive entertainment at the house and at the mess during his pleasure to remain at the place. To be the captor of a traveller was considered as a kind of triumph amongst us. The officer whose turn it was to be on duty for the day, was generally the fortunate host; for as his road to visit the hospital, after morning guard mounting, lay by the

side of a grove of mango trees, in which the tents of travellers were generally fixed, he was almost invariably the first person to become aware of the advent of a visiter, from seeing the operations of tent-pitching actively going forward close beside his path.

But the time had now arrived when I was to bid farewell for a period of years to this joyous state of life. In the month of April I was seized with sudden fits of fainting, which in a short period reduced me to a state of the most excessive debility. For ten weeks I was condemned to lie on my cot, without the power even to walk across the room unsupported by an attendant; and had it not then been for the unwearied care of the regimental surgeon, who watched every change, and gave instant attention to every symptom with unremitting and truly fraternal solicitude, I could never have risen again from that bed of sickness.

Oh! how wearisome were the long, long days of the hot-winds, with their unremitting op-

pressiveness!—for night brought no change of temperature. The heated earth then returned into the atmosphere the surplus heat that she had received from the sun during the day; and at one period in the month of May, the quick-silver stood as unmoved in the thermometer at 96° Fahrenheit, for ten days and nights, as if it had been struck into a solid body.

During the greater part of these ten weeks I was unable to read. My organs of vision were so relaxed, that I was unable to distinguish the words in a book, which presented to my sight nothing but a confused mixture of black and white. A bulbul sang almost throughout the day, in the garden close by; and to listen to this was the sole amusement that I cared for. The notes were beautifully sweet and plaintive; but the song was very short, and always the same.

I liked it the better on that account; for had there been change, the trouble of attention to it would have distressed me. The strain being still familiar to memory, I should rejoice to be

able to convey an idea of it to the reader; and yet, the charm that it possesses for me could not be transferred—the “soul” would be “wanting.” It shall therefore be left to the imagination, in full confidence that justice will be done to its sweetness.

In the middle of June a fall of rain for two days caused us to believe that the wet season had set in, and I was put with all diligence on board a boat previously prepared for my conveyance to Calcutta. I quitted the station immediately, provided with every attainable comfort, and furnished with the instructions necessary for my guidance by my kind friend the doctor.

Unfortunately the rain soon ceased; and after two or three days from that event, the hot winds returned with renewed violence; and I must inevitably have sunk under the withering heat of a vertical sun, with no canopy but the light thatch of a low-roofed Native boat, had not the assiduous care of one of my Native servants, a

Mahumedan, again stepped in between me and the previously doctor-defeated tyrant, who at this time struggled very hard to obtain possession of me. All my servants were zealous and anxious to serve and save me ; but the man just alluded to had alone the head to devise, as well as the hand to execute what was needful. He sensibly mitigated the intense heat of the sun's direct rays by spreading carpets and blankets over the thatch of the boat ; daily did he cut fresh ju-wassée* in the ravines, which he interwove into a bamboo frame (of his own making from the canes on board), thus forming an effective tatty, which he kept continually watered.

Thus ministered to, I lingered on till I arrived at my late post, Calpee ; when the friend who had been my companion there, joined me, having procured general leave of absence, and proceed-

* Juwasse.—A small herbaceous plant with very light foliage, frequently used for tatties when the khuskhus grass is not procurable. It, however, only lasts for the day, as the leaves wither.

ed along with me to the Presidency. The rains had now commenced in all sincerity, and the remaining part of my voyage down the river was inconceivably more comfortable than the unpromising commencement gave augury of.

I arrived at Calcutta in August, and preparations were immediately made for my embarkation for England, principally under the superintendence of my old friend the magniloquent sircar, who had snuffed out my arrival immediately, and renewed his offers of service.

Even that impenetrable and (officially) most hard-hearted of all human conclaves, the Medical Board, passed me without looking at me, on the bare word of the Presidency Surgeon, who attended me; which is a pretty certain proof that mine was no case of *sham-abraham*.

At length all things were ready, and the welcome tidings brought me by the sircar—“Now, master, everything on board, and the ship will *march* to-morrow morning at ten o’clock.”

The intelligence was almost immediately after confirmed, in a note from the skipper.

To the very last moment my servants remained with me, and three of the number determined to see me on board. They accordingly accompanied me, arranged my cot and my cabin, and quitted me not until the last Native boat left the vessel. The Mahumedan before mentioned earnestly entreated me to bring him to England, offering to serve me for bare food and clothing until my return to India;—but this was impracticable, without making pecuniary sacrifices which would have been highly imprudent.

We sailed about the end of August, in the height of the south-west monsoon, against which we were a month beating out of the Bay of Bengal, amidst heavy squalls of wind, and constant rain, thunder, and lightning.

After a tempestuous passage of four months, we arrived at Liverpool on New Year's Day.

I now take respectful leave of the reader, who has accompanied me until my return to my

native land—and sincerely do I trust that we part on good terms, for peradventure we may meet again.

NOTE.—The Author has been informed, but too late for correction in the Text, that the great Gun at Agra (page 201) has been broken up, and the materials sold, by order of the Indian Government.

THE END

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